Itihasa 9

Wakako Mizuki

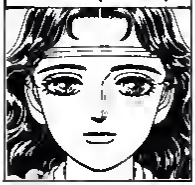
Itihasa

Part III: Fuji/Amane

Recap & Main Characters

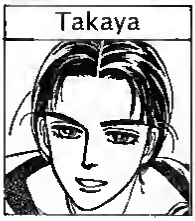
<Part I>
As foretold by an oracle two generations ago, the gods that can be seen—divided into the warring demigods and demon gods—have traveled to this once-peaceful island, and the kind-hearted tribes who worship the gods that cannot be seen have become embroiled in their war. Toko's tribe is attacked by the Kiyu Faction, a group of demon gods under Kiyu the Silver Horned God.
Takaya, Toko and Aohiko, who were in the mountains looking for yang stones and escaped the attack, meet the demigod Risson, God of the True Law, and his warriors (including Katsura and Ichirota). The three decide to join the group in its pursuit of the demon gods...
One day, Takaya is badly injured and near death. To save him, Toko chants a mantra that transfers her own life force to him. As a result, Toko herself is left in serious condition. As she hovers between life and death, another Toko (!?) appears and guides her towards life. Her other self tells her that they are fated to kill each other when they meet again...
Katsura is in love with Aohiko. However, conscious of the dark fate that will swallow him up in a few years' time, Aohiko is unable to accept her feelings. On hearing this, Katsura privately vows to hide her love and protect Aohiko for as long as she lives.
One day, over seven years later, a hermit named Misen looks into Toko's past. Toko learns she has a twin who was kidnapped as a child and turned into one of Kiyu's warriors... Takaya is kind as ever to Toko in her state of shock, unaware that she has come to love him as more than just a brother. One day, shaken by the appearance of a woman named Kiriko, Toko confesses her feelings to Takaya, creating a rift between the two. However, when Kiriko dies of an illness, Toko resolves to make a fresh start as Takaya's little sister.
<Part II>
Takaya and Toko are surrounded by the demon god's warriors, and Toko comes face to face with her twin, Yoko. In agony over both their separate lives, Toko is run through by a crazed Yoko's spear. However, Toko's soul enters Yoko, and Yoko becomes convinced that she is Toko.

Toko (Yoko)



Meanwhile, Aohiko engages Kiyu's army all by himself and is taken captive. Then wings suddenly grow out of Takaya's back. Like Kai, Takaya has Mamana blood in his veins.
Since Toko has borrowed Yoko's body and Yoko has been fitted with a demon headband, Toko is compelled to kill people. Yachio then appears to Toko. Yachio is the one who knows the divine names of all the gods and does what needs to be done. Yachio tells Toko to go to Fuji. However, her shock is so great that she falls into a deep sleep.

Takaya



Aohiko, who is believed to hold the key to Toko's secrets, is very nearly killed by Hibiki, but thanks to Kimika's quick thinking, Ichirota saves him. With Aohiko's help, Toko sets herself free, choosing to live as both Toko and Yoko. Meanwhile, Takaya, entrusted with Risson's divine name, sets off with Katsura for Shangri-La on Fuji to save Toko and Aohiko.
<Part III>
Takaya, Katsura and Kai travel toward Fuji on foot.
In a village along the way, they meet a man and his daughter, who has Mamana blood. The father asks Takaya to take his daughter Tamia to see Amane, the God of Universal Good.
Meanwhile, Mida, a demon god who serves Kiyu, tries to manipulate Hibiki into killing Aohiko. When Aohiko sees Nachi about to stab Hibiki, he automatically puts out his hand to stop him. Toko then severs the light that Mida releases and is summoned by Kiyu. In his presence, she senses the despair and deep sadness that fill Kiyu's wavelength...

Ichirota	Katsura	Aohiko

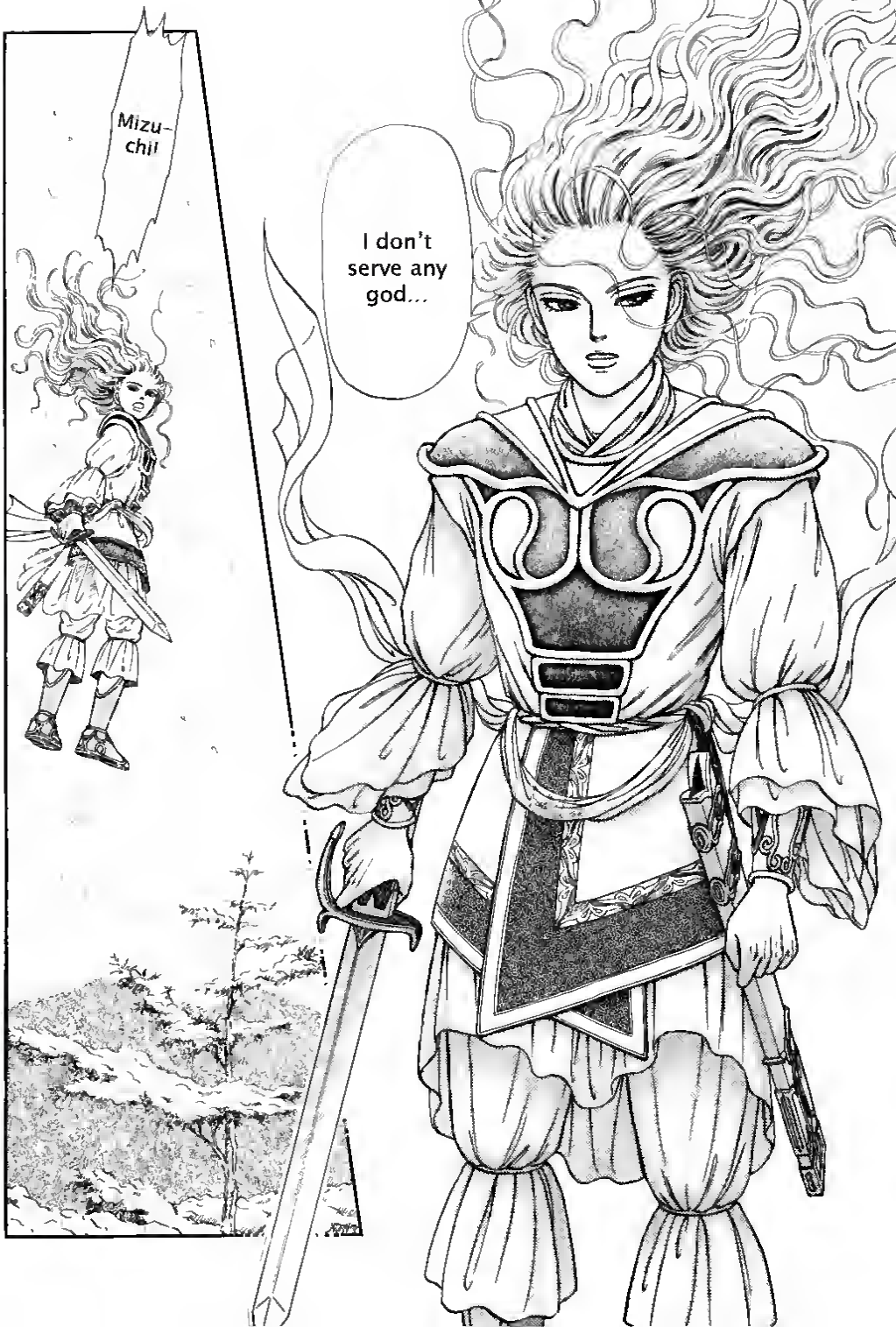
Mantra: a mysterious spell received from the gods that cannot be seen.

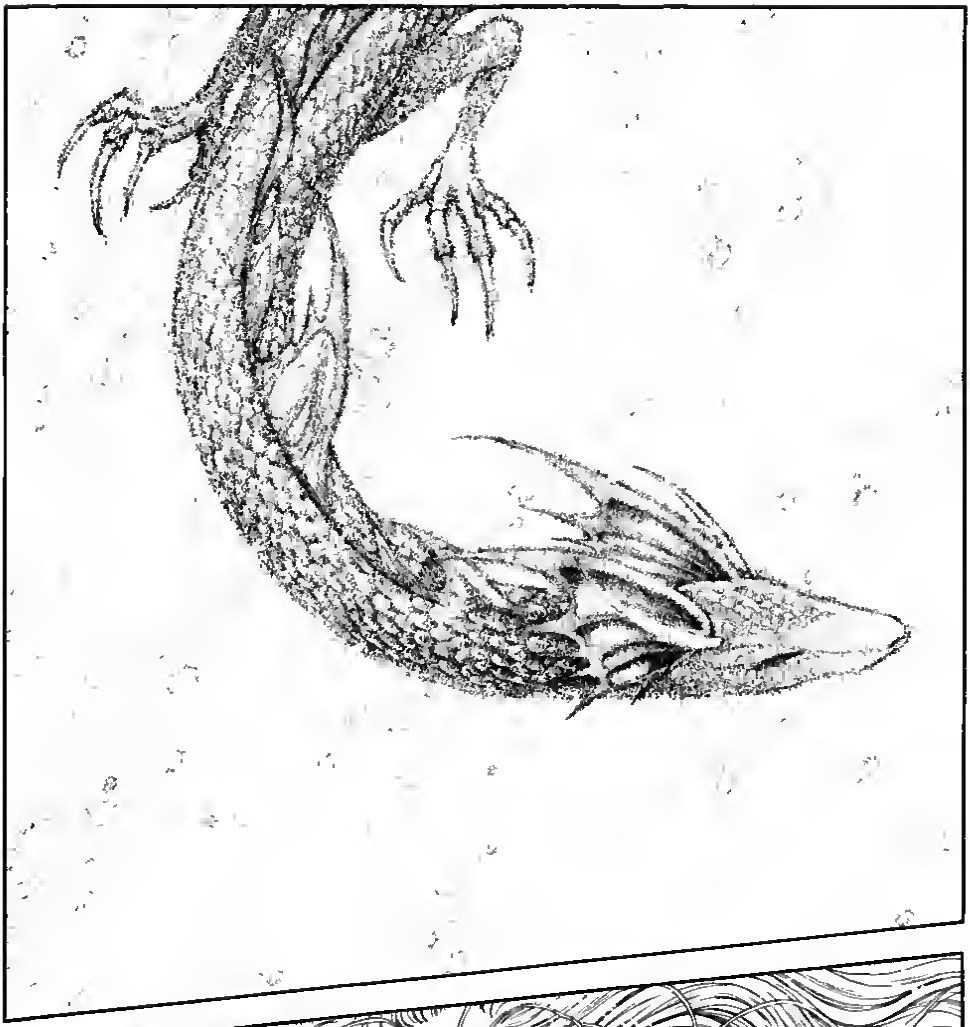
"Yin stone: a special stone that has negative energy. Its power is manifested through the use of mantras.Demon headband: a headband Kiyu sets on the foreheads of his demon-god warriors. When these warriors are wounded, they go berserk."

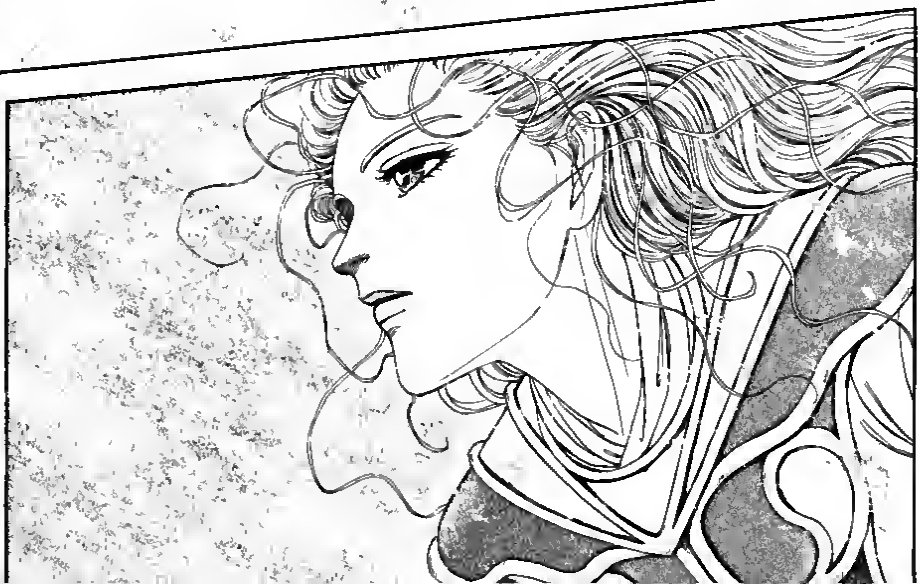
S-so you're the notorious Yachio!?

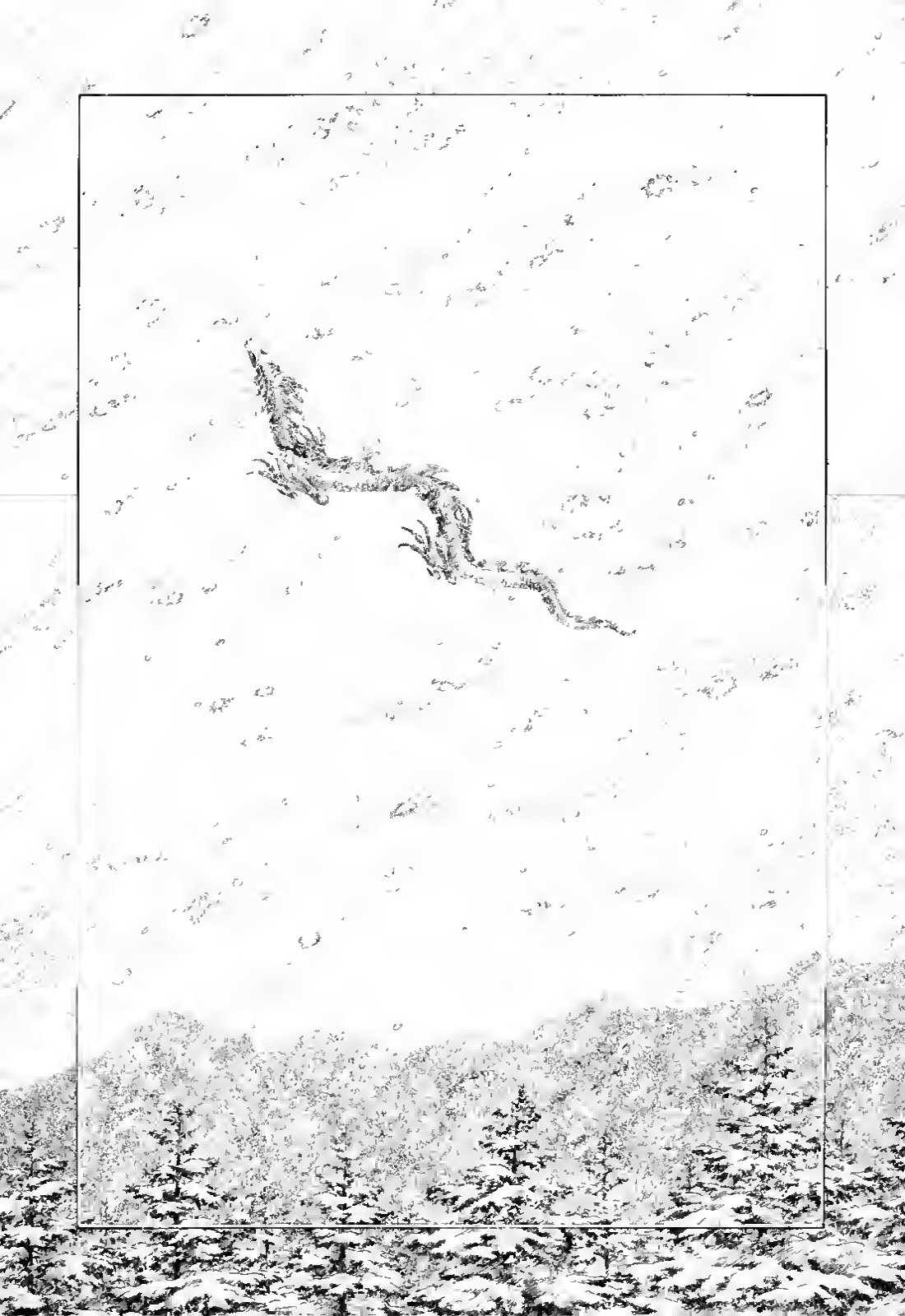
What god do you serve!?
SLASH
Amane, the God of Universal Good!?

FSSSH

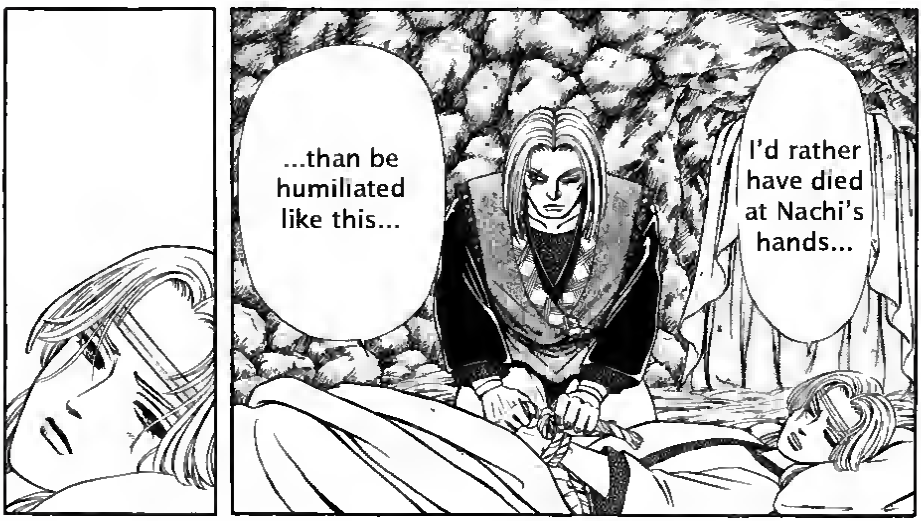

Mizu-
chi!
I don't serve any god...

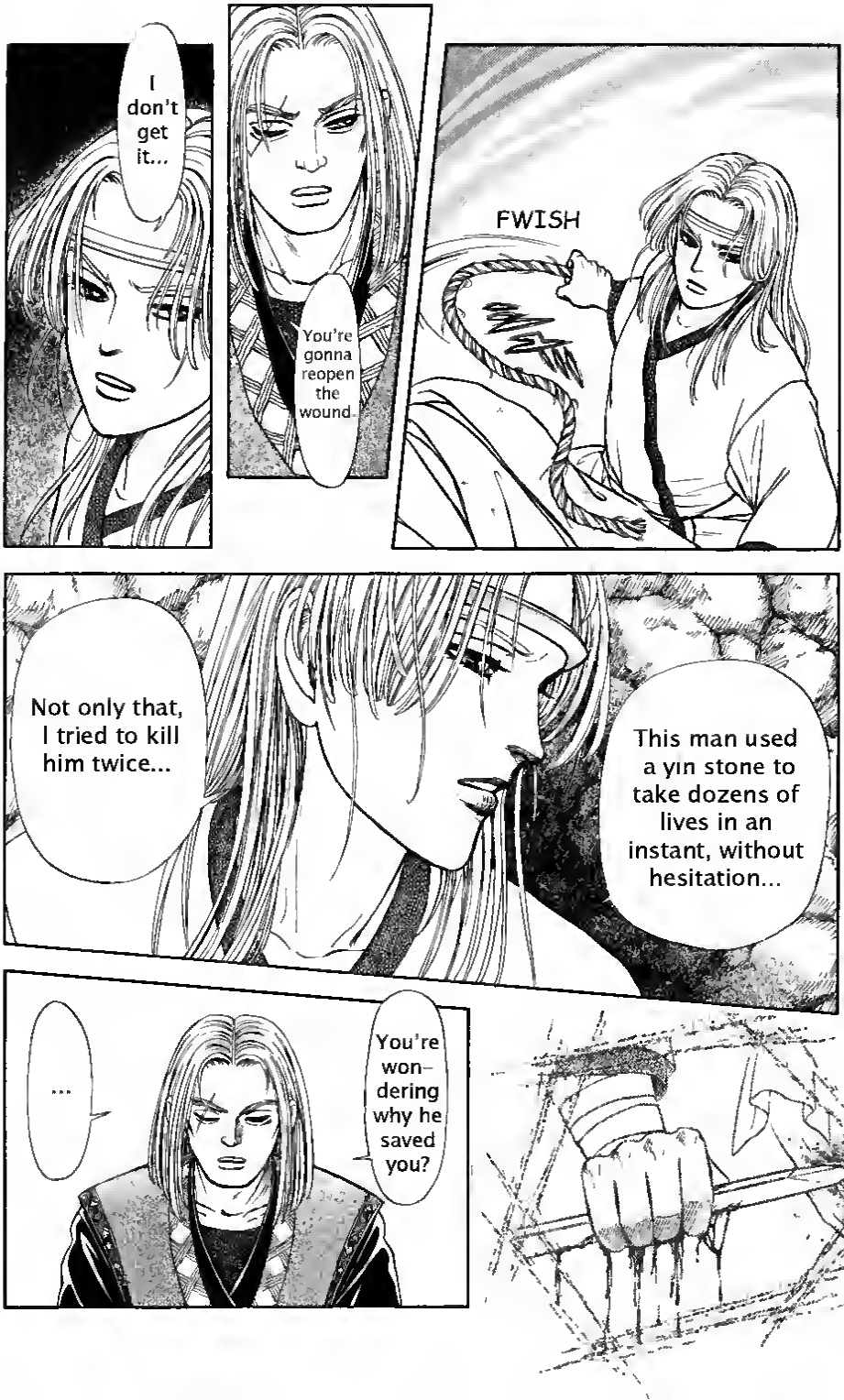


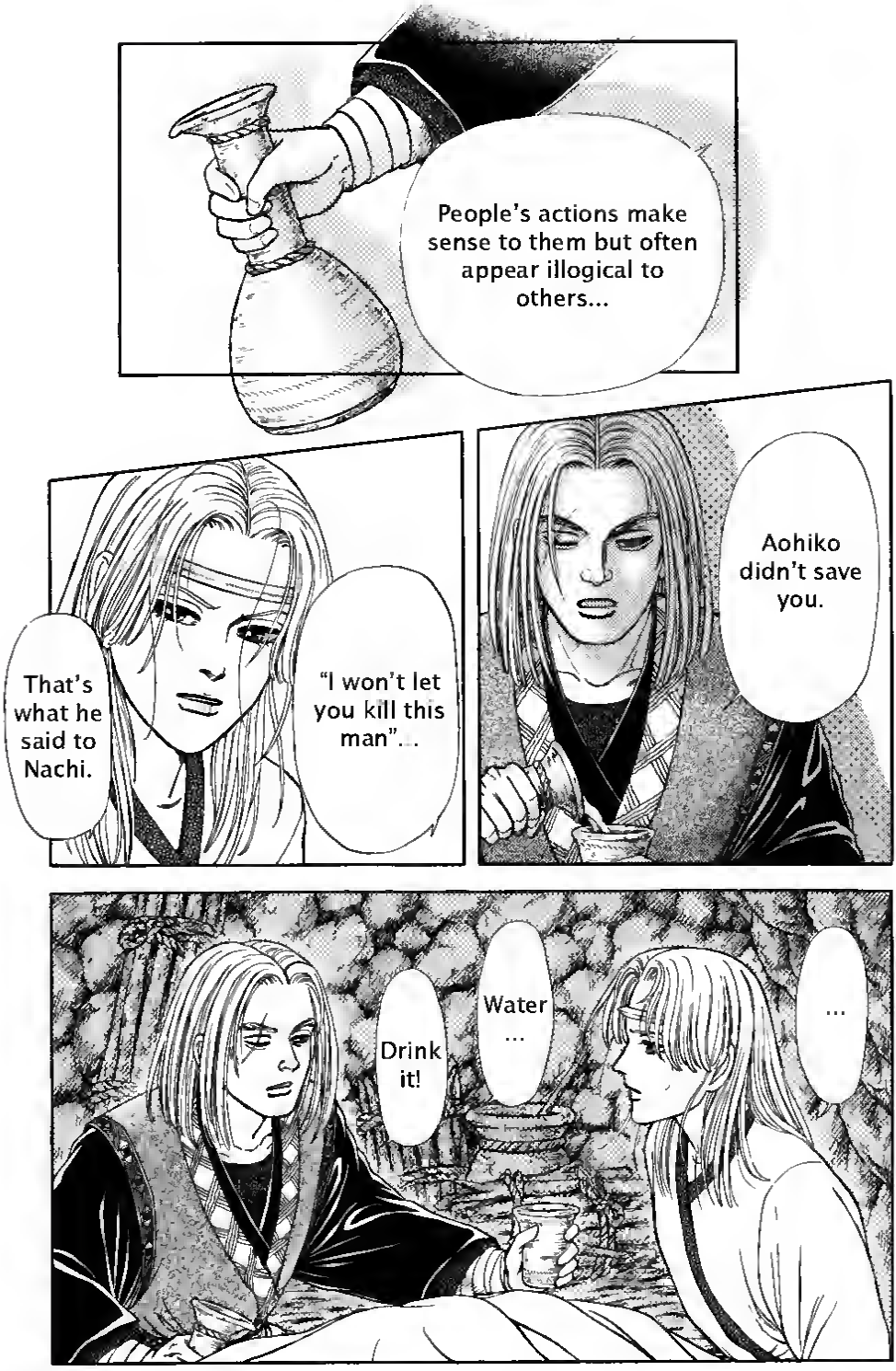




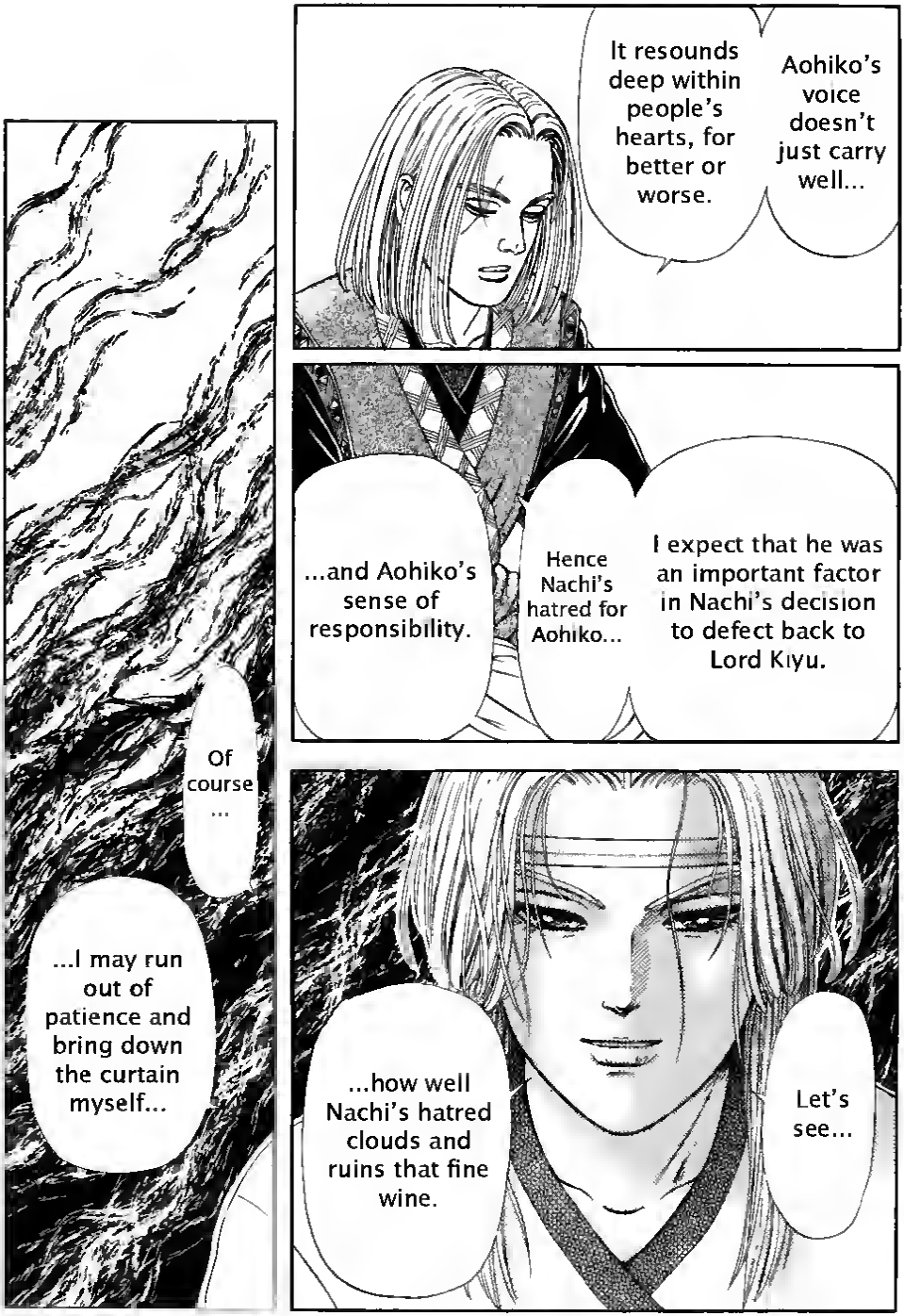
If the pain is gone, I'll untie you.
Have you come to...?


...than be humiliated like this...
I'd rather have died at Nachi's hands...


I don't get it...
You're gonna reopen the wound.
FWISH
Not only that, I tried to kill him twice...
This man used a yin stone to take dozens of lives in an instant, without hesitation...
...
You're wondering why he saved you?


People's actions make sense to them but often appear illogical to others...
That's what he said to Nachi.
"I won't let you kill this man"...
Aohiko didn't save you.
Drink it!
Water ...
...

HEH
HEH
...Nachi ...?
So I'm not the one he humiliated... It was...
Someone must have told him about your history with Nachi.
Does he still see Nachi as "Ichirota" and think he can rescue him!?
What a fool!
The fragrance alone is enough to get people drunk!
A rare wine indeed!
How inge-nious..

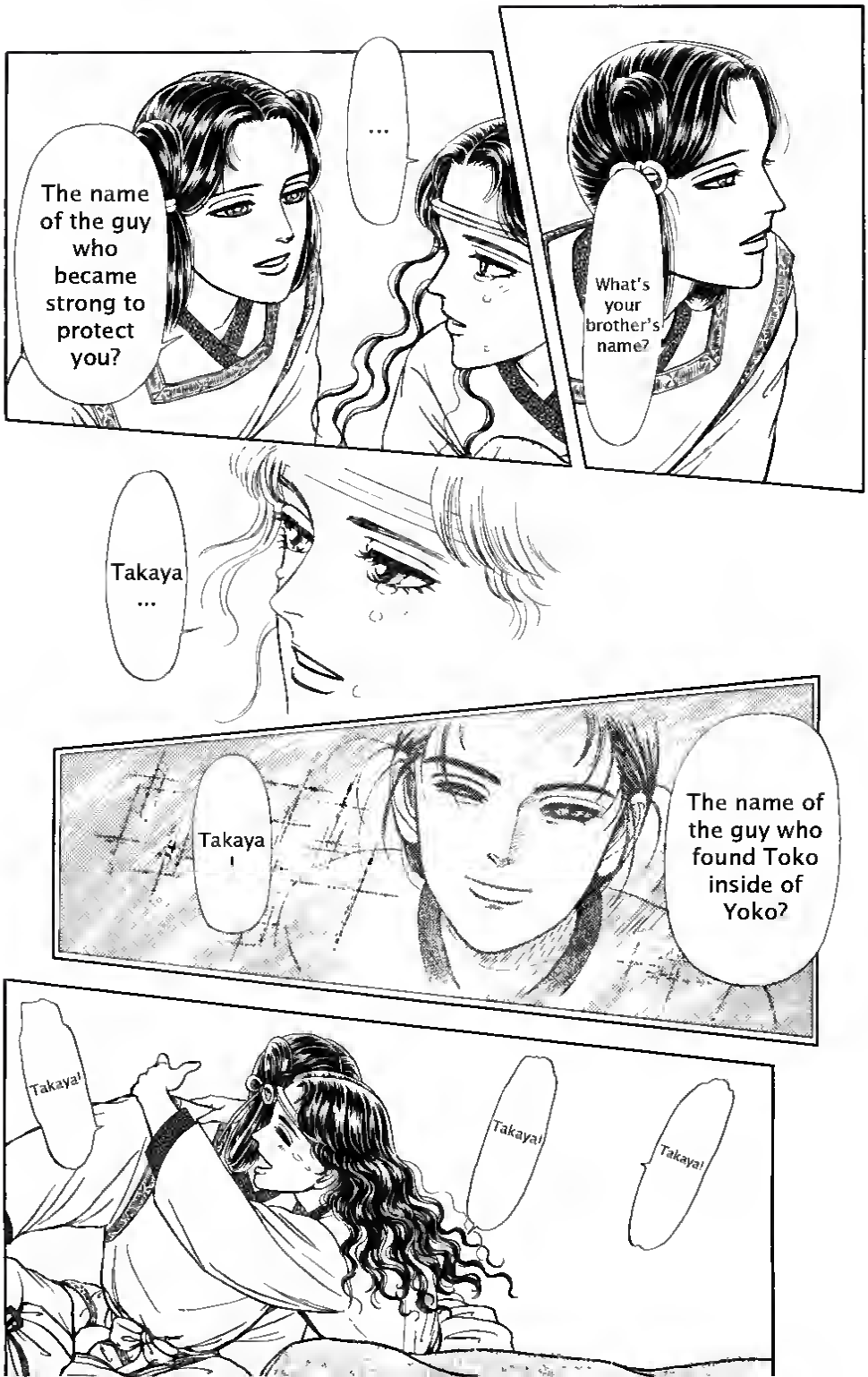

Aohiko's voice doesn't just carry well...
It resounds deep within people's hearts, for better or worse.
I expect that he was an important factor in Nachi's decision to defect back to Lord Kiyu.
Hence Nachi's hatred for Aohiko...
...and Aohiko's sense of responsibility.
Let's see...
...how well Nachi's hatred clouds and ruins that fine wine.
Of course ...
...I may run out of patience and bring down the curtain myself...

He's been working hard since morning.
He went to fetch some water.
Did he wake up?
Huh? Where's Kyoji!?
...not being able to protect us at a critical time.
He seems really torn up about...
Not likely ...
Ha... nope ...
Right?
It's not in his nature
It's not like he would have killed Hibiki anyway.
Kyoji's worried about us? Ewww!
SNICKER SNICKER

He must have wanted to know the extent of your power...
...like why he didn't stop Mida...
Once I was surrounded by Kiyu's aura, I couldn't ask him anything...
I went to sleep without saying a word...
Sorry about last night.
Why ...?
Why was I able to do that...?

To... ko?
If I can do that, maybe I can kill demon gods like Takaya.
...after all this time...
Mm... Saying his name ...

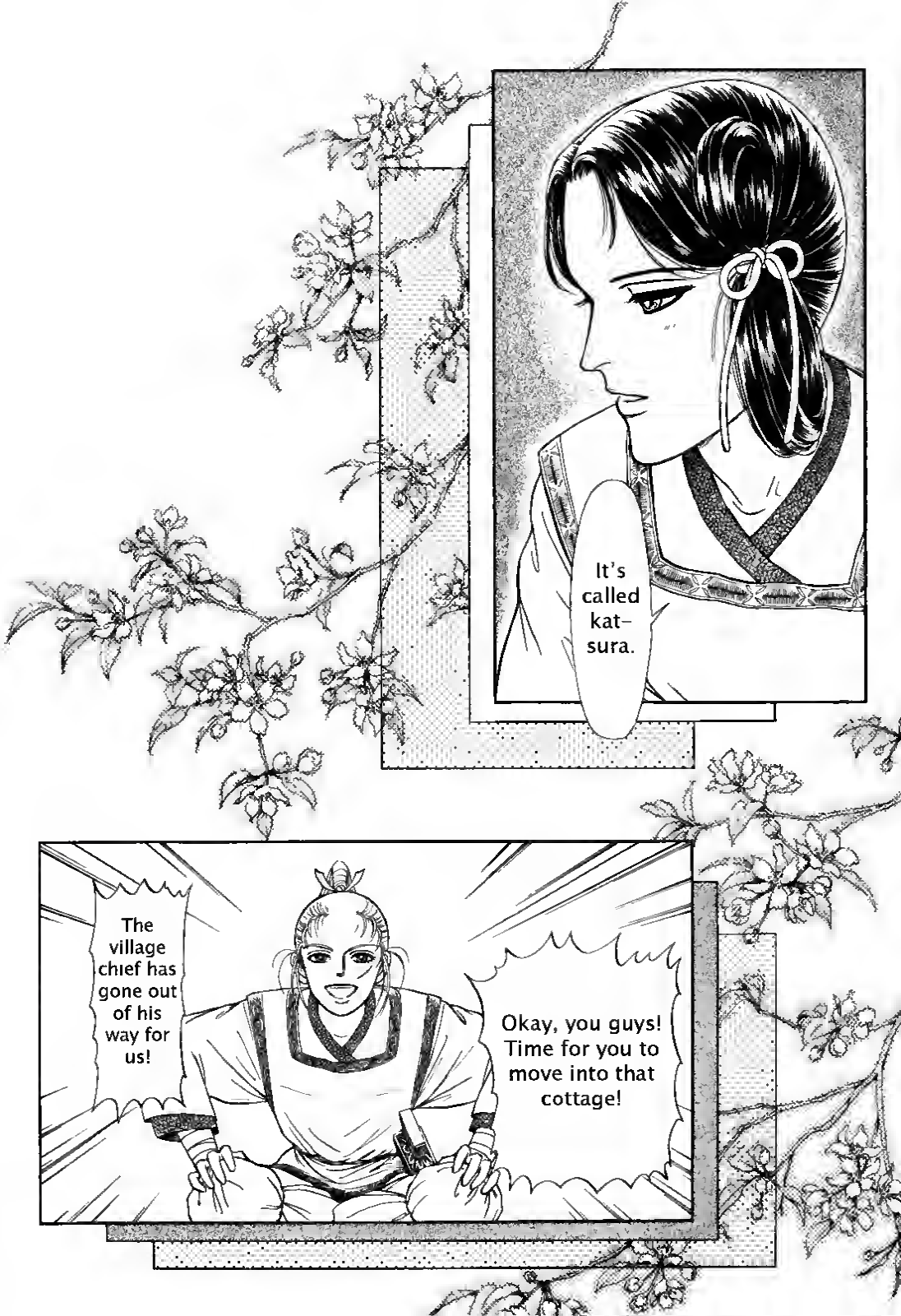
I... miss him...
...
...I know I'll cry...
..."I miss him"...
If I say...
...I've held it in, but I still cry...
...I've held it in... but...
...so...


What's your brother's name?
...
The name of the guy who became strong to protect you?
Takaya ...
The name of the guy who found Toko inside of Yoko?
Takaya!
Takaya!
Takaya!
Takaya!

What did you do to make her cry, Aohiko!?
Oh...!
Thank you, Aohiko ...
Thank you for going to that trouble.
I just got some-thing in my eye!
Aohiko said he wanted to make something when his hand got better, so I nabbed some wood.
They're too good to use as kind-ling...
What are these pieces of wood for?

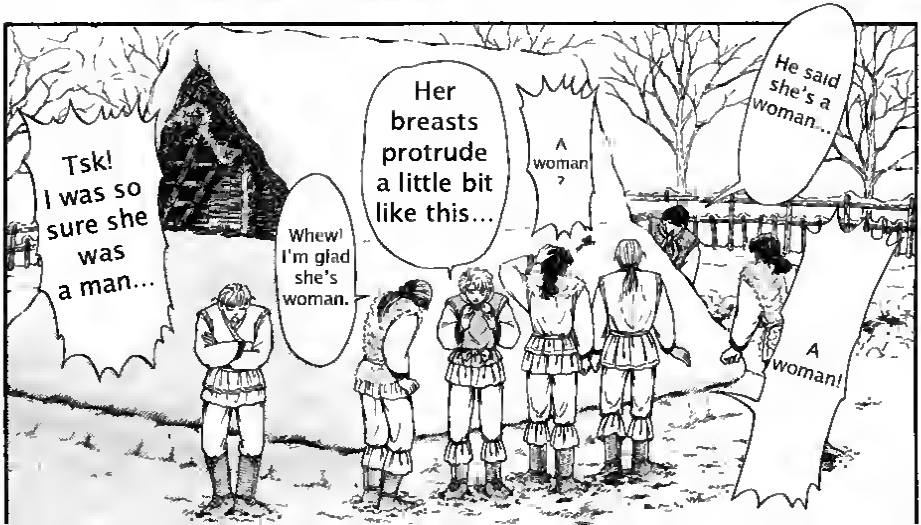
Supple and easy to work...
This is good ...
It smells nice.
What kind of wood is it?
Is this okay?
Green wood won't work, right?
...kat-sura wood.
This is...

SNIFF
SNIFF
Huh... "Ka-tsura"...
What's the name of the wood?
Could you say it again... Aohiko?
I didn't quite catch that...
Aohiko ...
I just said it, "katsura"!

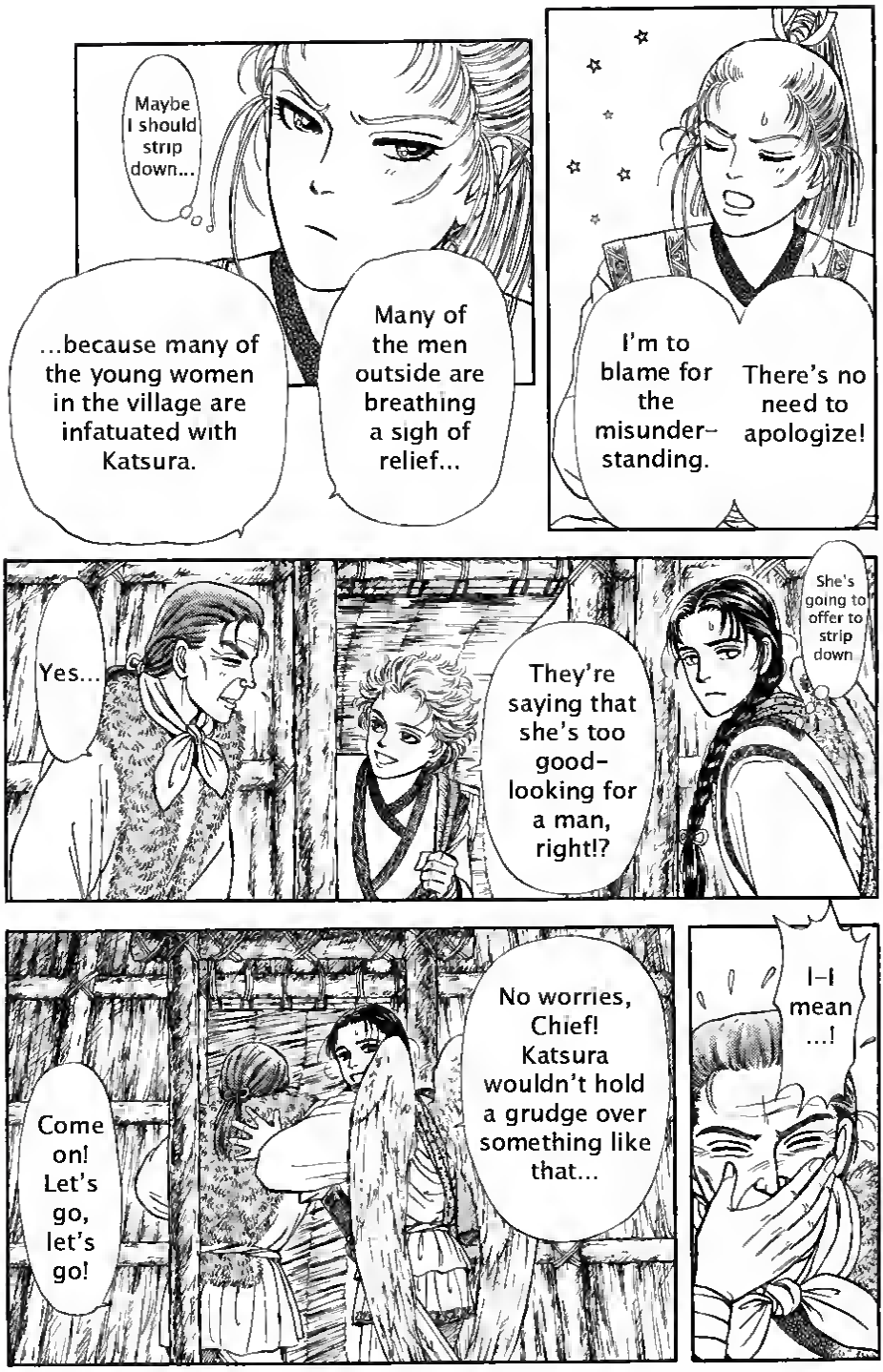

It's called kat-sura.
The village chief has gone out of his way for us!
Okay, you guys! Time for you to move into that cottage!

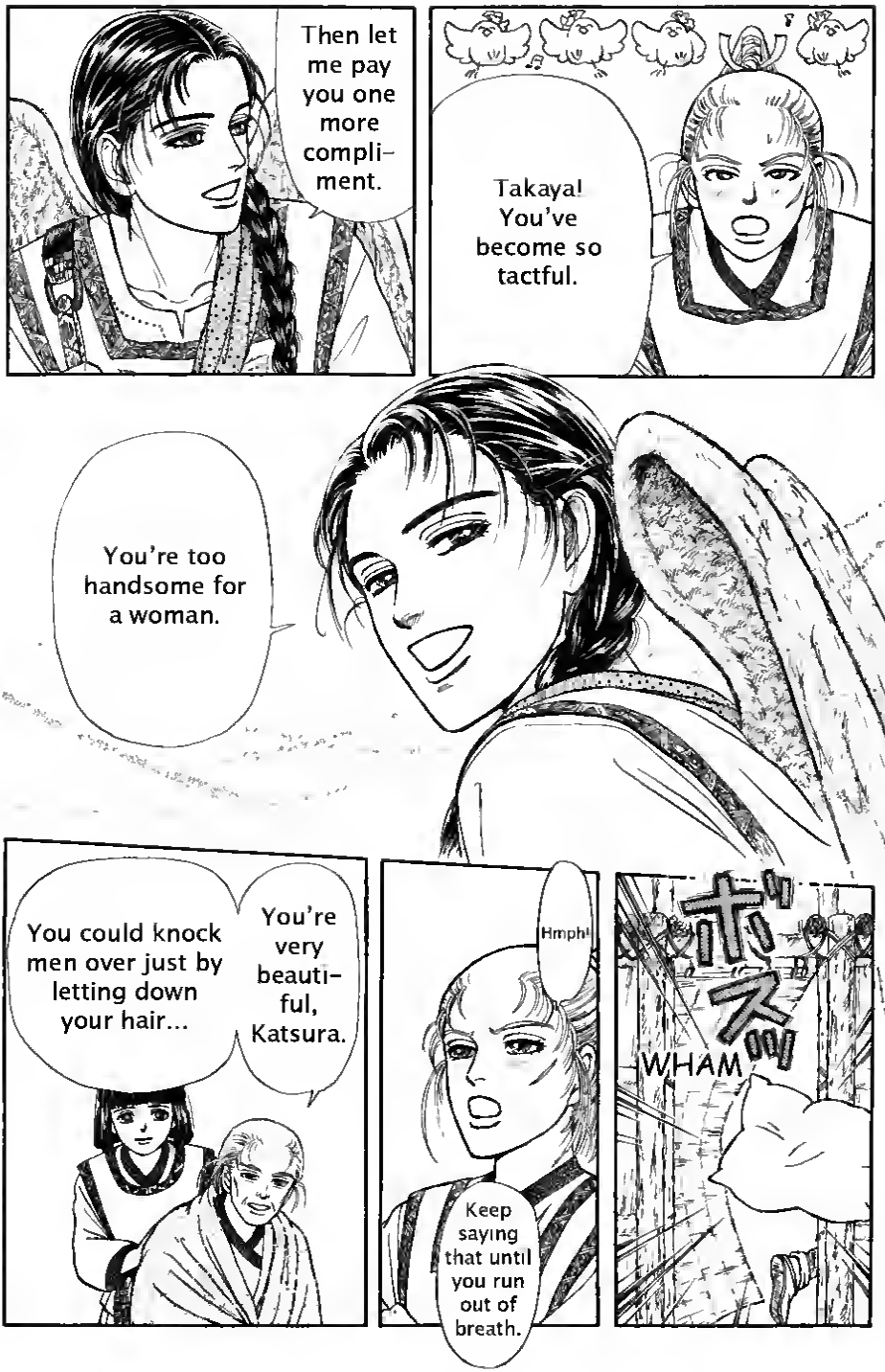
There's no need to be in such a rush! Let the cottage warm up first!
Hmph! It's nothing compared to sleeping outdoors!

So Katsura is a woman then...
Katsura gets annoyed when things aren't done immediately.
Enough, Kai!

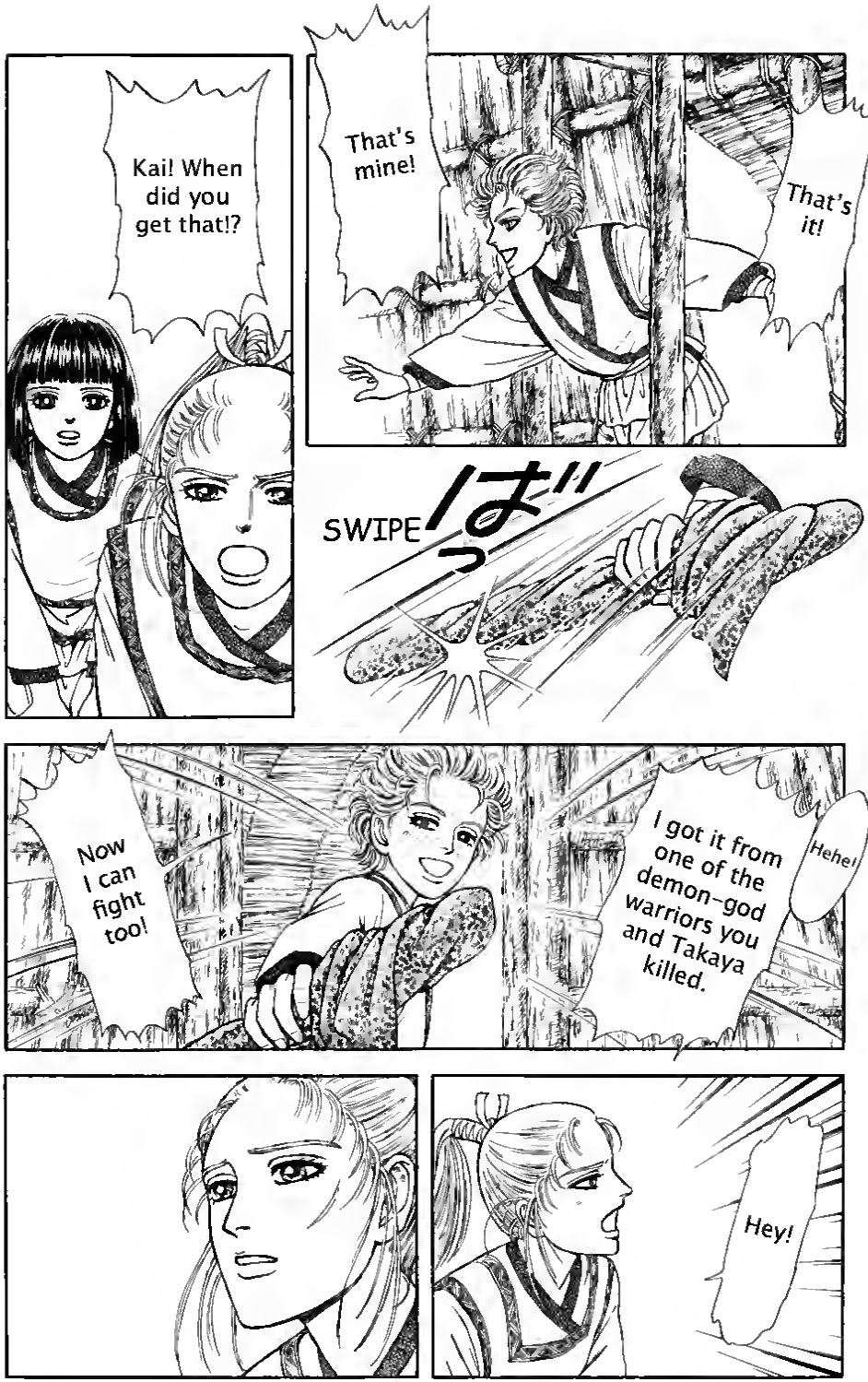

Tsk! I was so sure she was a man...
Whew! I'm glad she's woman.
Her breasts protrude a little bit like this...
A woman ?
He said she's a woman...
A woman!

No... see, um...
AHEM
When we got to the point of lending you another cottage, opinions were divided on the matter...
Ch-chief ...
Y-yes, of course... It's just that...
I introduced myself as a woman!
Very true!
Uh... er... I beg your pardon ...
Power-ful!
AH-HA-HA-HA!
No, no, you have a very power-ful voice...
And my voice doesn't sound like a man's!


Maybe I should strip down...
...because many of the young women in the village are infatuated with Katsura.
Many of the men outside are breathing a sigh of relief...
I'm to blame for the misunder-standing.
There's no need to apologize!
Yes...
They're saying that she's too good-looking for a man, right!?
She's going to offer to strip down
Come on! Let's go, let's go!
No worries, Chief! Katsura wouldn't hold a grudge over something like that...
I-I mean ...!


Then let me pay you one more compli-ment.
Takaya! You've become so tactful.
You're too handsome for a woman.
You could knock men over just by letting down your hair...
You're very beauti-ful, Katsura.
Hmph!
Keep saying that until you run out of breath.
ボス
WHAM

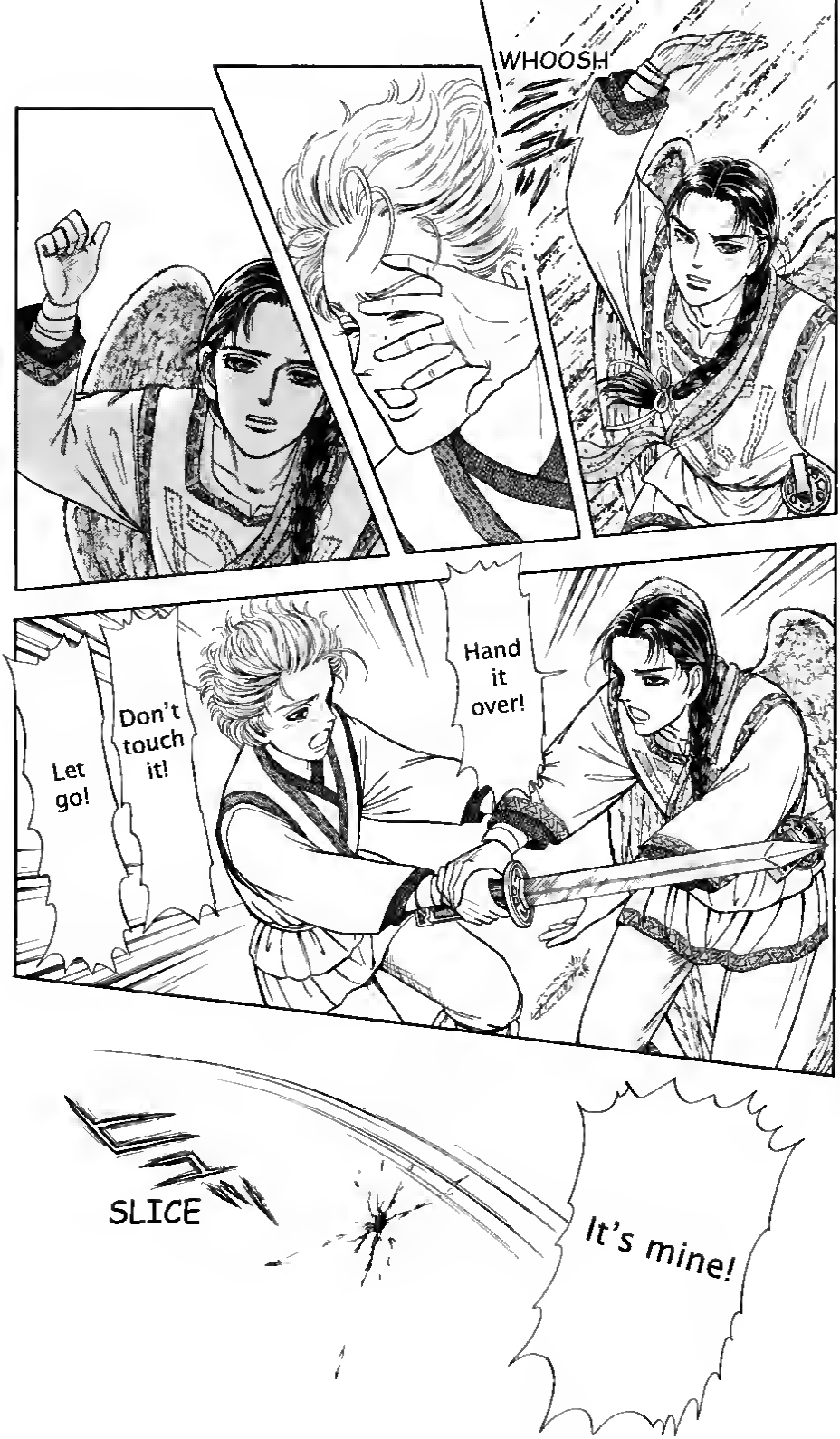
This is usually a male fantasy...
Hm?
There's one man I'd like to knock over...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
キバキバ
Knock them over, huh?
Huh?
Katsura...
Is this... Takaya's sword...?
I forgot something!


Kai! When did you get that!?
That's mine!
That's it!
SWIPE
ばっ
Now I can fight too!
I got it from one of the demon-god warriors you and Takaya killed.
Hehe!
Hey!

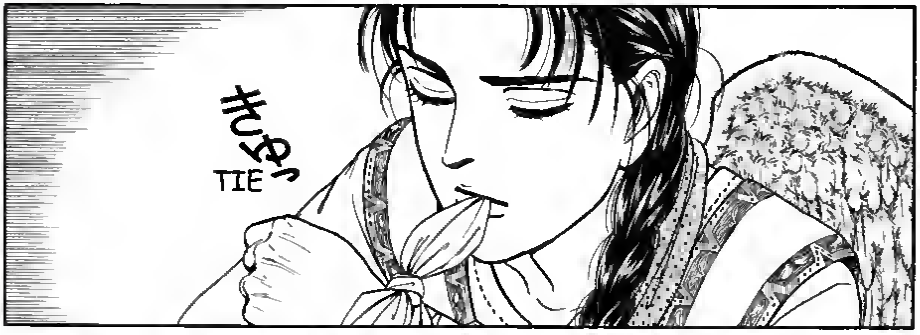
Hehe !
What did you leave behind?
This!

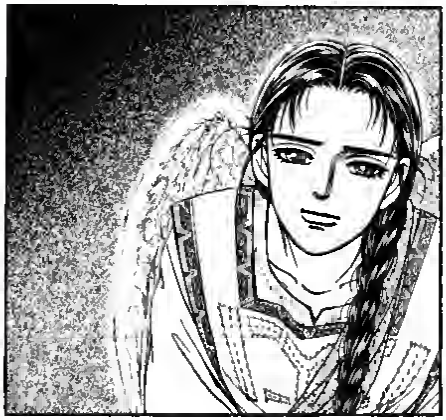
Now I can fight with you, Takaya!
He doesn't need it now that he's dead!
It's the sword of one of the demon-god warriors you killed!
Kai...
Get rid of it...
... now.
Leave it in a place where no one can find it!

No way!
I finally... finally got my hands on one!
You always exclude me when you fight...
And then you get rid of everything by the time I get there.
Hand it over!
I'll get rid of it!
Stop treating me like a kid!
I may be young, but I've killed dozens of people!

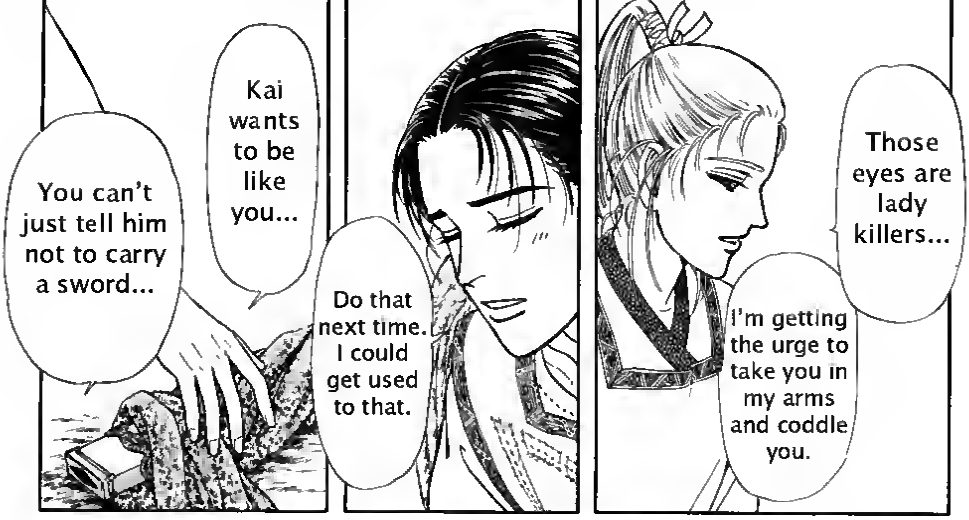

WHOOSH
Hand it over!
Don't touch it!
Let go!
SLICE
It's mine!

Y–
you...
It's
your
fault!


きゅっ
TIE

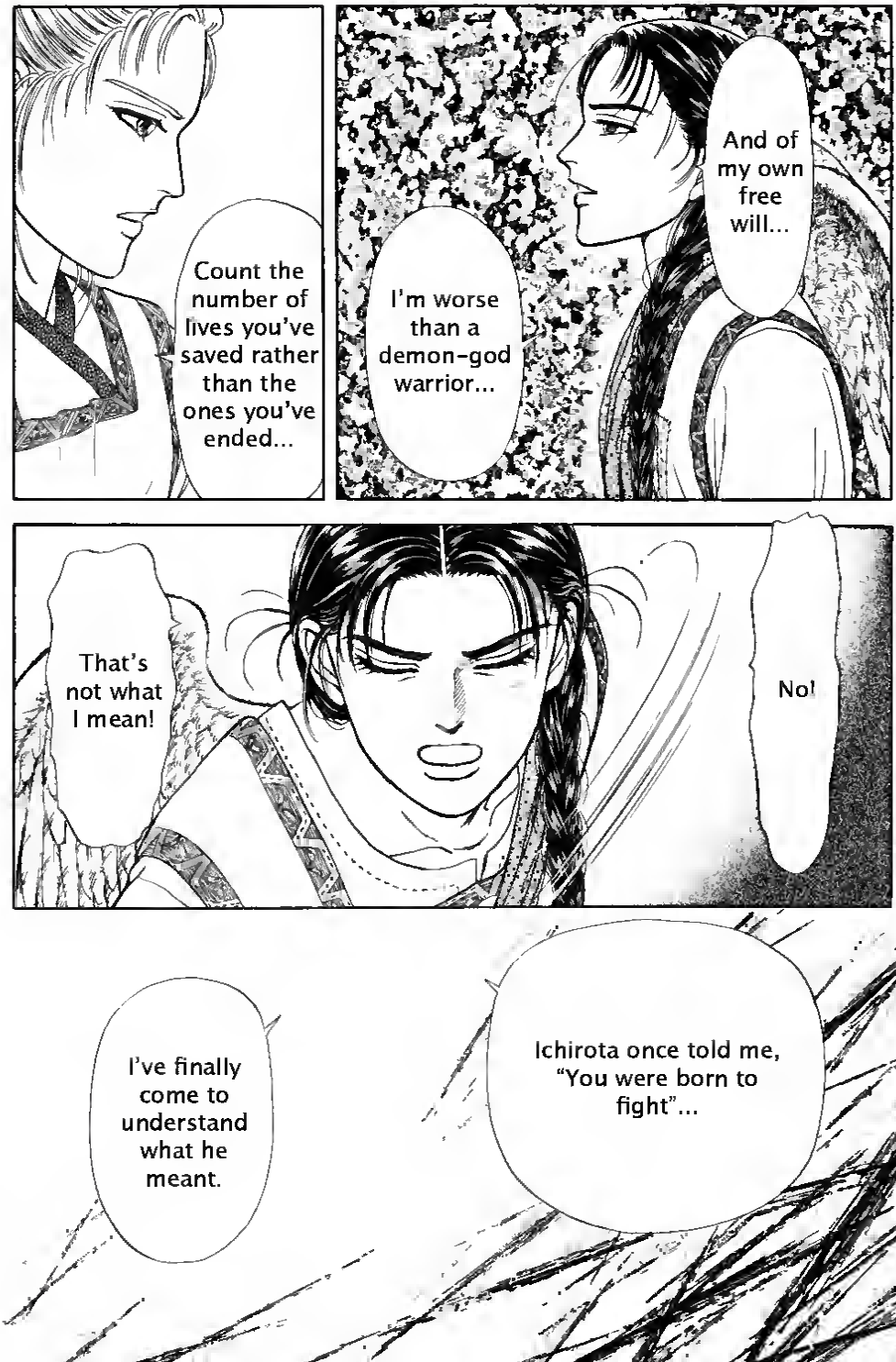


Yep...
I thought
you'd get
into
a fight...


You can't just tell him not to carry a sword...
Kai wants to be like you...
Do that next time. I could get used to that.
Those eyes are lady killers...
I'm getting the urge to take you in my arms and coddle you.

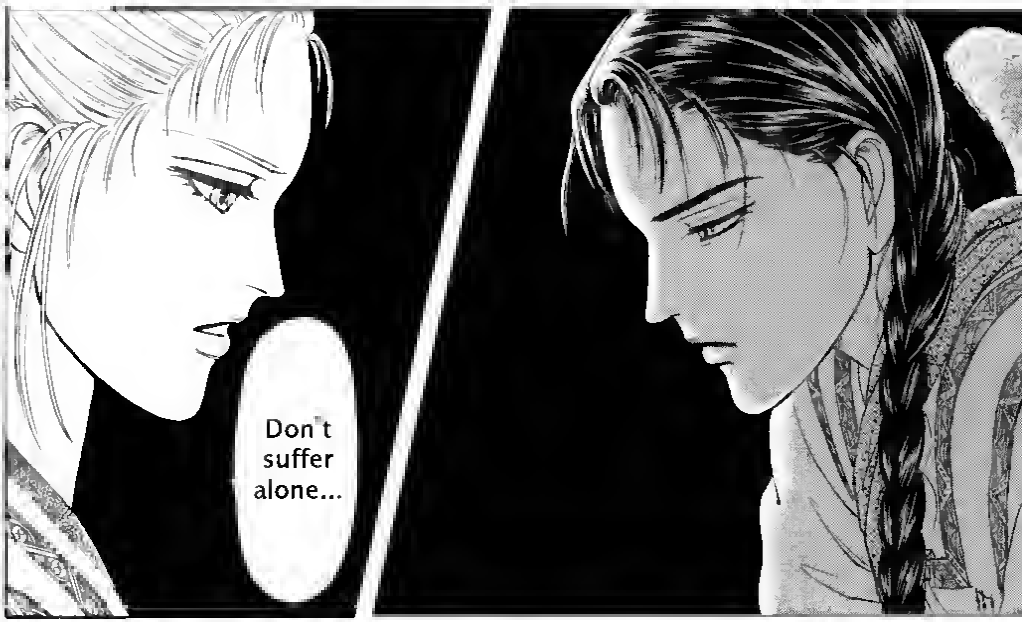
Raised to kill people...
Because he's an unfortu-nate kid, right?
I want to prevent him from hurting any more people.

No one's taken the lives of more people than I have...
But who am I to tell Kai not to kill...?


Count the number of lives you've saved rather than the ones you've ended...
I'm worse than a demon-god warrior...
And of my own free will...
That's not what I mean!
No!
I've finally come to understand what he meant.
Ichirota once told me, "You were born to fight"...

When the enemy approa-- ches ...
... from behind ...
... from the front ...
... from the sides ...
...my eyes instantly take in their movements!
I know every move they're going to take next!
All that's left is to efficiently defeat them...

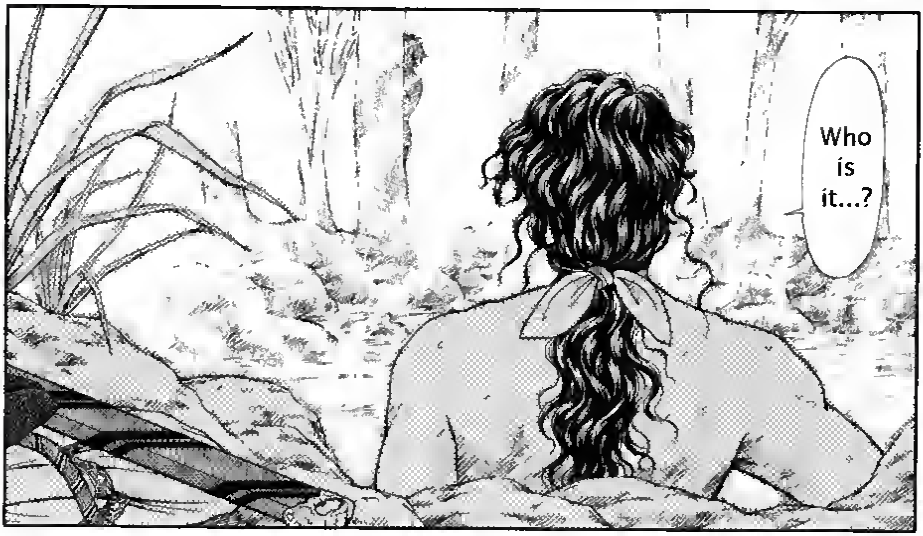
There's ...
There's a part of me that enjoys that...


Don't suffer alone...

That anguish is a sign of your integrity...
If you're suffering, share the burden...
I'll kill as many people as I absolutely must...
I've come to terms with it...
Don't worry about me...
...I want to prevent everyone else from killing.
...if I can help it...
...but ...

You...
Kai...
Toko ...
Aohiko ...
KRR
Don't act all tough around me...

ヒョコ
LIMP
ヒョコ
LIMP


Who is it...?

You found such a nice place and kept it all to yourself...
That's not fair...

Aren't you getting pretty light-headed by now?
ぽいっ
TOSS
You're not going to keep me company, though, are you?
ぽいっ
TOSS
I'm getting in too!
When that deer with the injured leg got in, you stayed completely still until it got out.
I'm...
I wanted to be the deer.

SHOOM
Hey!
Am I higher than a raccoon dog?
...lower than a deer in your eyes, aren't I...?
What about a mole?
Higher ...?
Lower ...?

Tight-wad...
Turn around!
C'mon !
Hey... I want to see your face when it's flushed...

There you are...

I'm not going to get rid of this sword.
I-I...
Show me.
It's just a scratch.
How... how's your wrist ...?

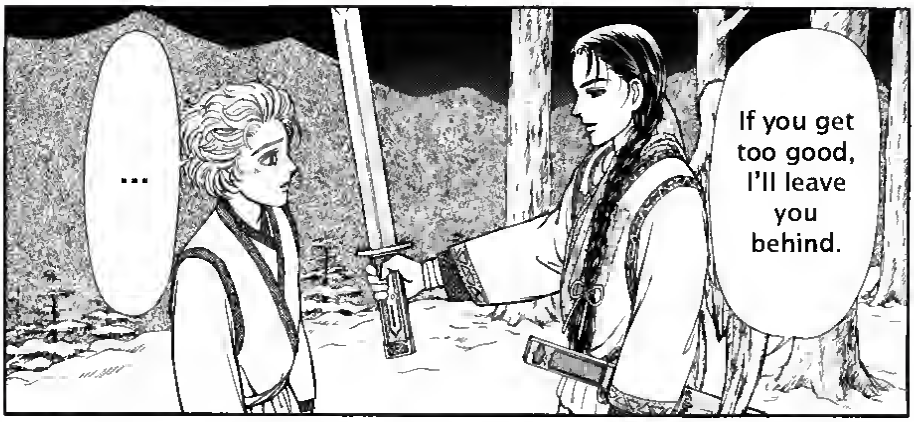
Show it to me.
You're frozen to the roots of your hair.
See? Like I said.

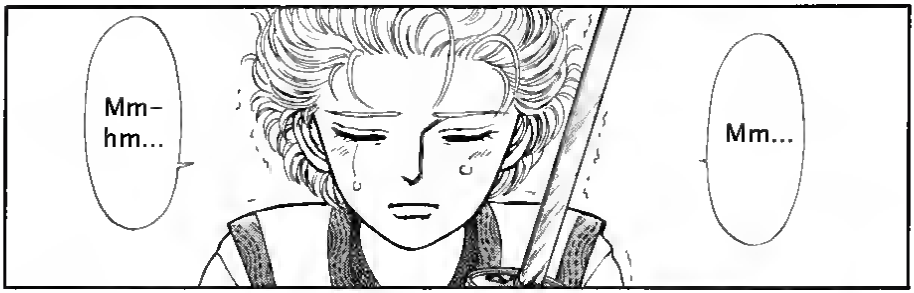
My body doesn't get infected.
If I lick it, it won't get infected.
H-hey!
But...
But...
I want to help you...

I'm... use- less and...
...I slow you down and...
I hate being that way!
I hate it!
Kai...

...what it will be like to take up your sword again.
You don't understand...
It will probably be different from now on...
But listen ...
You were raised to feel pleasure in killing people.
Everything in your past will tear you to pieces.
From now on, that sword will tear your heart to pieces.

I don't care!
You don't know what that's...
As long as I'm with you, I'll be fine!
I...!
As long as I'm with you...
I like you, you good-for-nothing kid...


...
If you get too good, I'll leave you behind.


Mm-hm...
Mm...

What's that!?
Ta... Takaya !

GASP

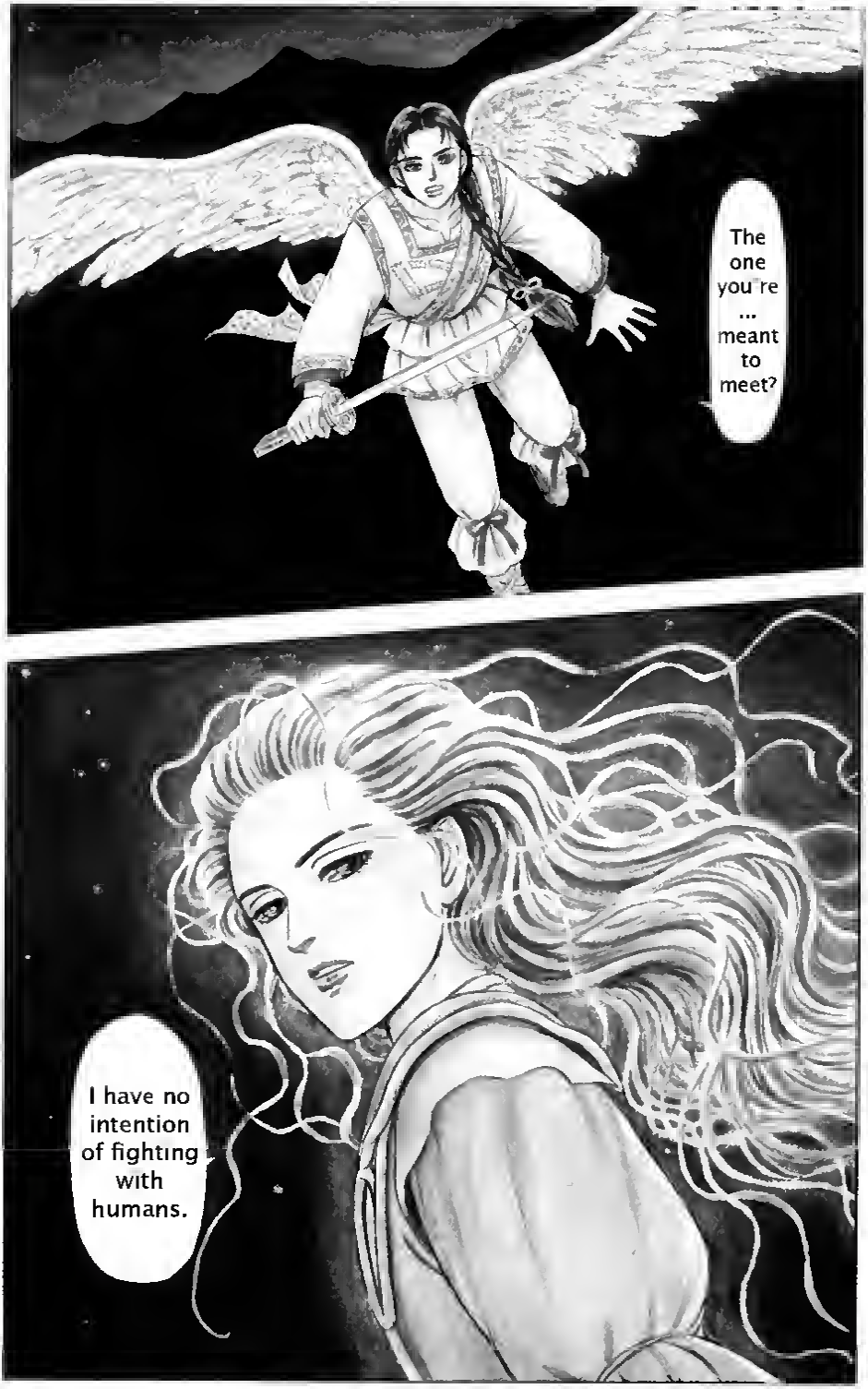
Th-that's the thing I saw above the village of Isana...
Go tell Ka-tsura!
Takaya!
Be careful!
They're chasing a demigod!

He's trying to destroy the demigod!
Is that him!? Is that man...
Stop!
...the person Lord Risson told us about!?

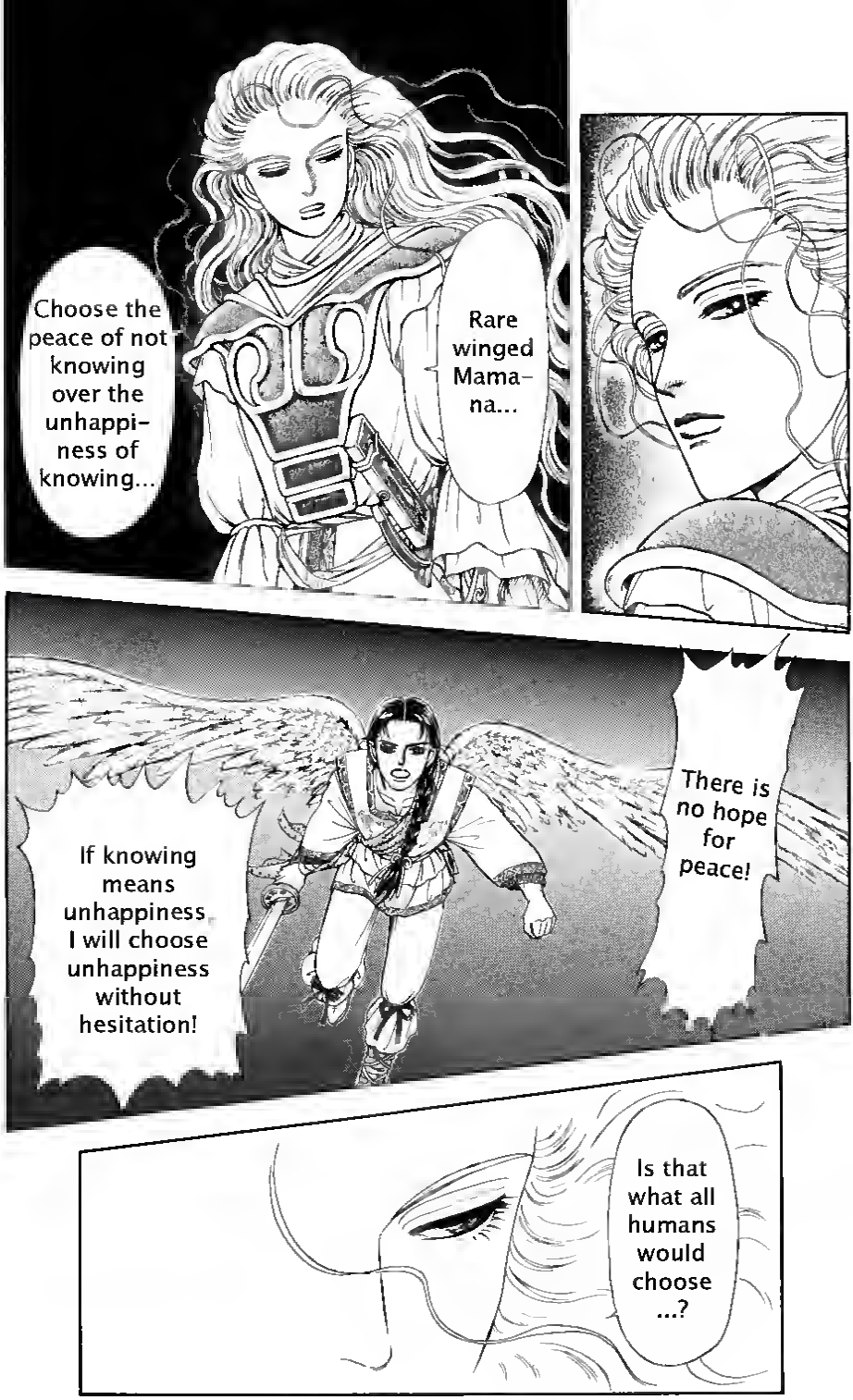
A Mama-na...?
He... he looks like Katsura...!

Why are you trying to destroy a demigod!?
Who are you!?
Answer me!

There is no need for humans to know.
It will only be revealed to the one I am meant to meet.

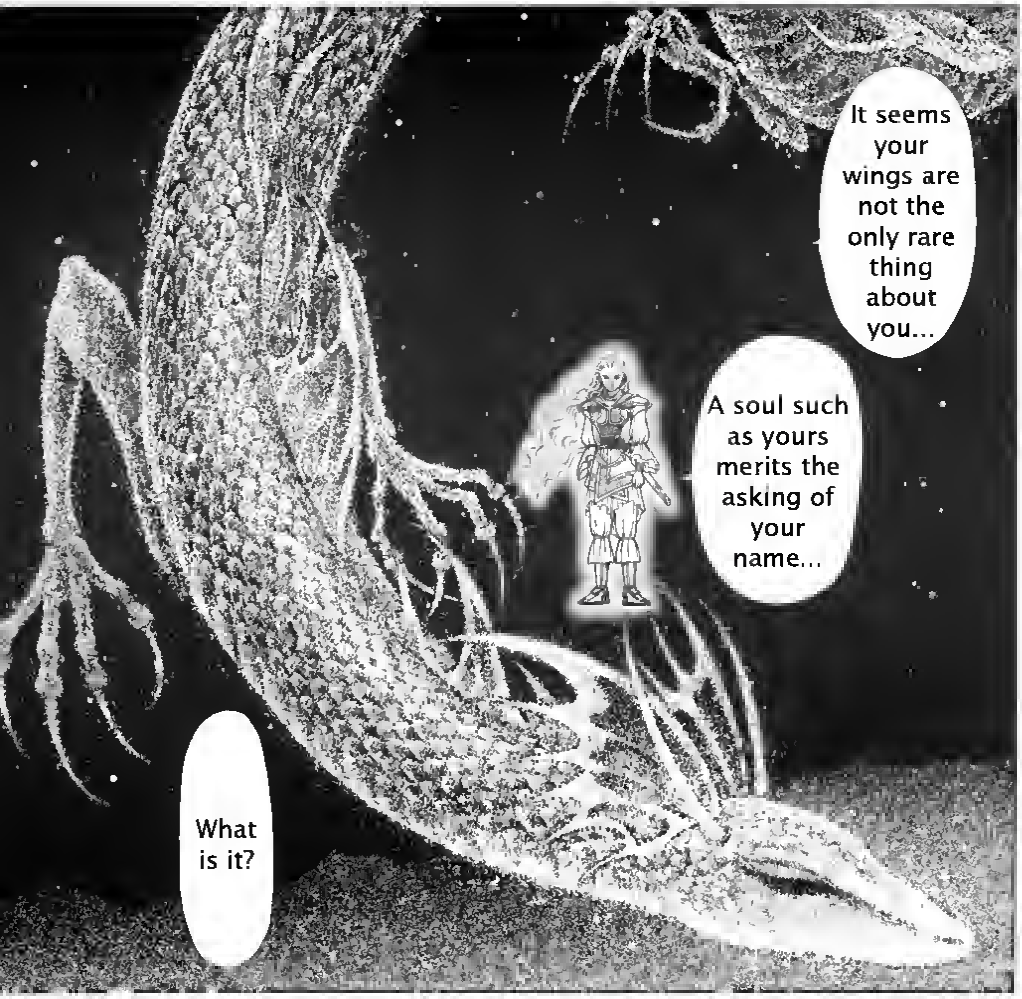

The one you're ... meant to meet?
I have no intention of fighting with humans.

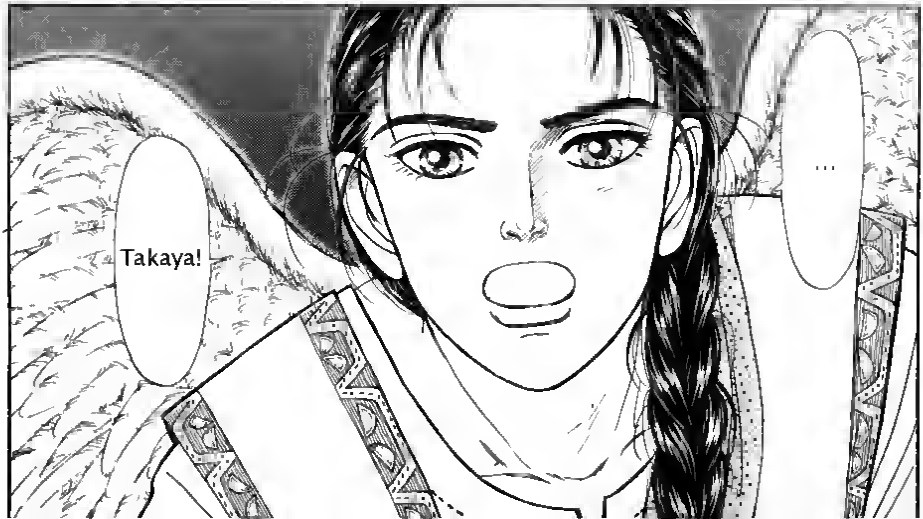
I want to know!
Wait!
Please wait!
I want to know everything, whatever the answer may be!


Choose the peace of not knowing over the unhappiness of knowing...
Rare winged Mamana...
There is no hope for peace!
If knowing means unhappiness I will choose unhappiness without hesitation!
Is that what all humans would choose ...?

...over peace?
Un-happi-ness...
Not only those who live now, but all the generations of people more than 10,000 years into the future.
I want to know!
I don't care what they'd choose!
I...
The answer involves all of humanity.

More than
10,000
years...


It seems your wings are not the only rare thing about you...
A soul such as yours merits the asking of your name...
What is it?

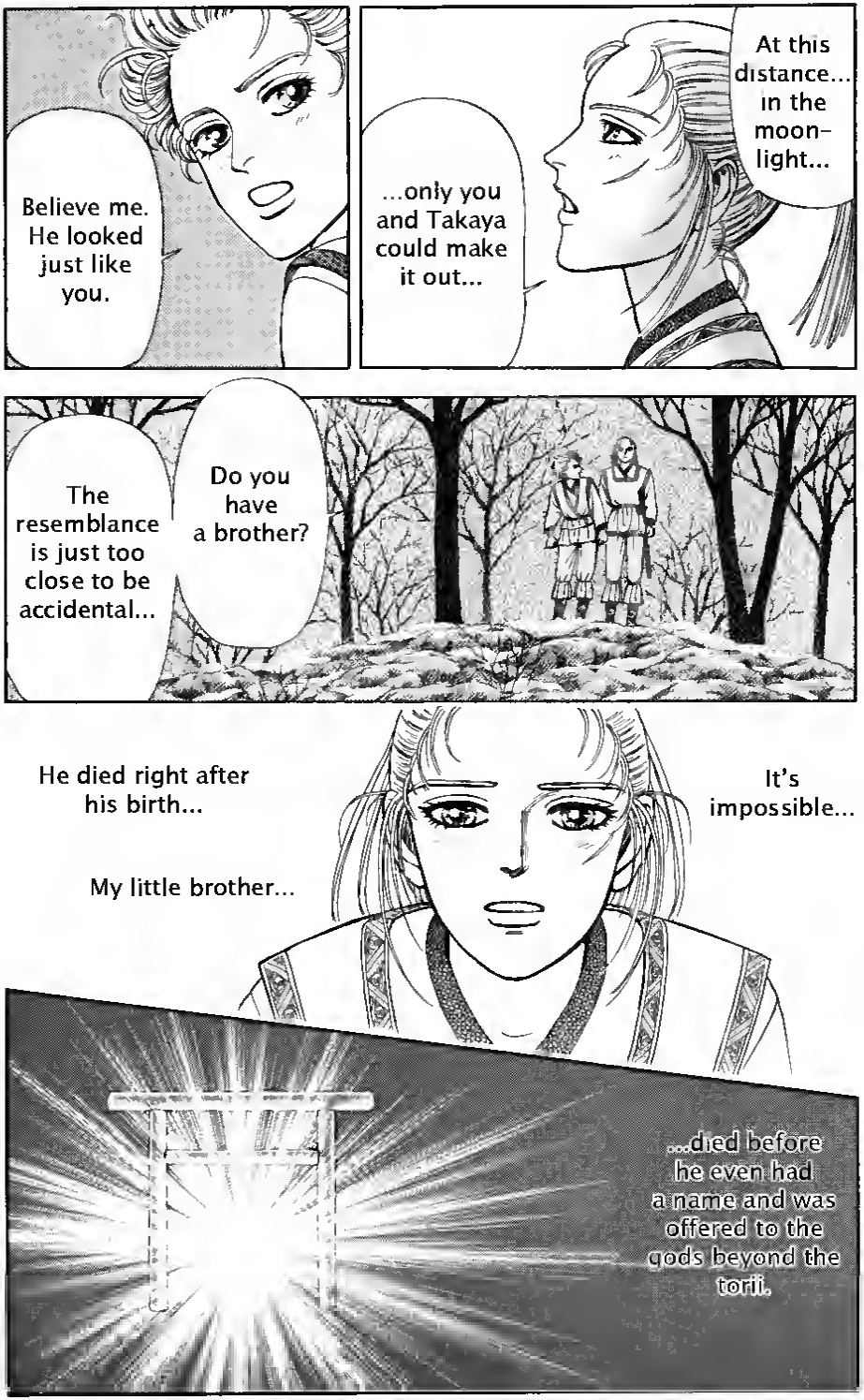

Takaya!
...

Takaya ...
Go to Fuji...
...what eternal peace is like!
... and see ...

Wait!
Wait!
Are you unhappy then...?
Are you...
You, who may well know everything...

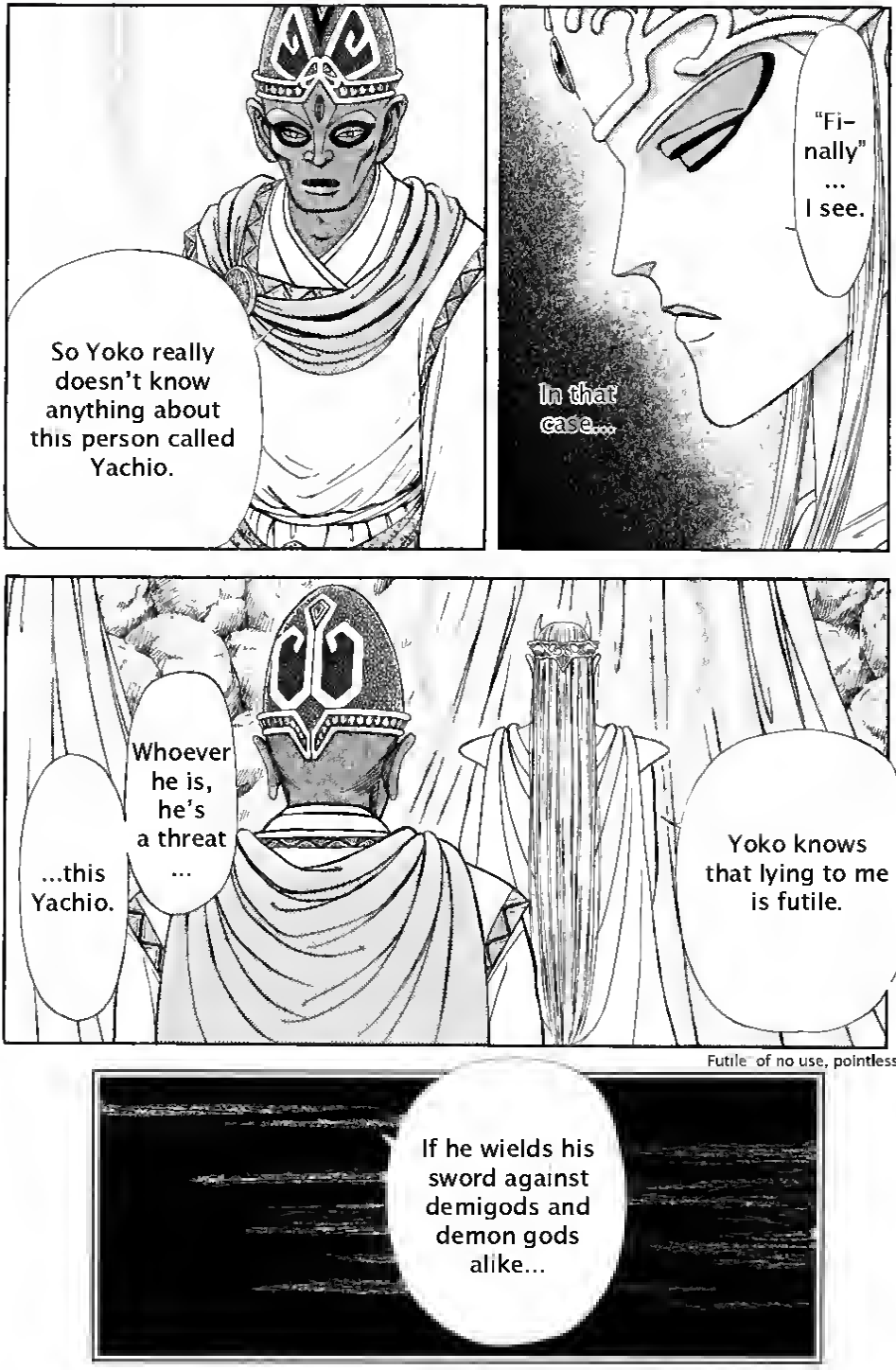
...unhappy...?

You saw his face, right!?
He looked just like you!
Did you see him!?


Believe me. He looked just like you.
...only you and Takaya could make it out...
At this distance... in the moon-light...
The resemblance is just too close to be accidental...
Do you have a brother?
He died right after his birth...
My little brother...
It's impossible...
...died before he even had a name and was offered to the gods beyond the torii.

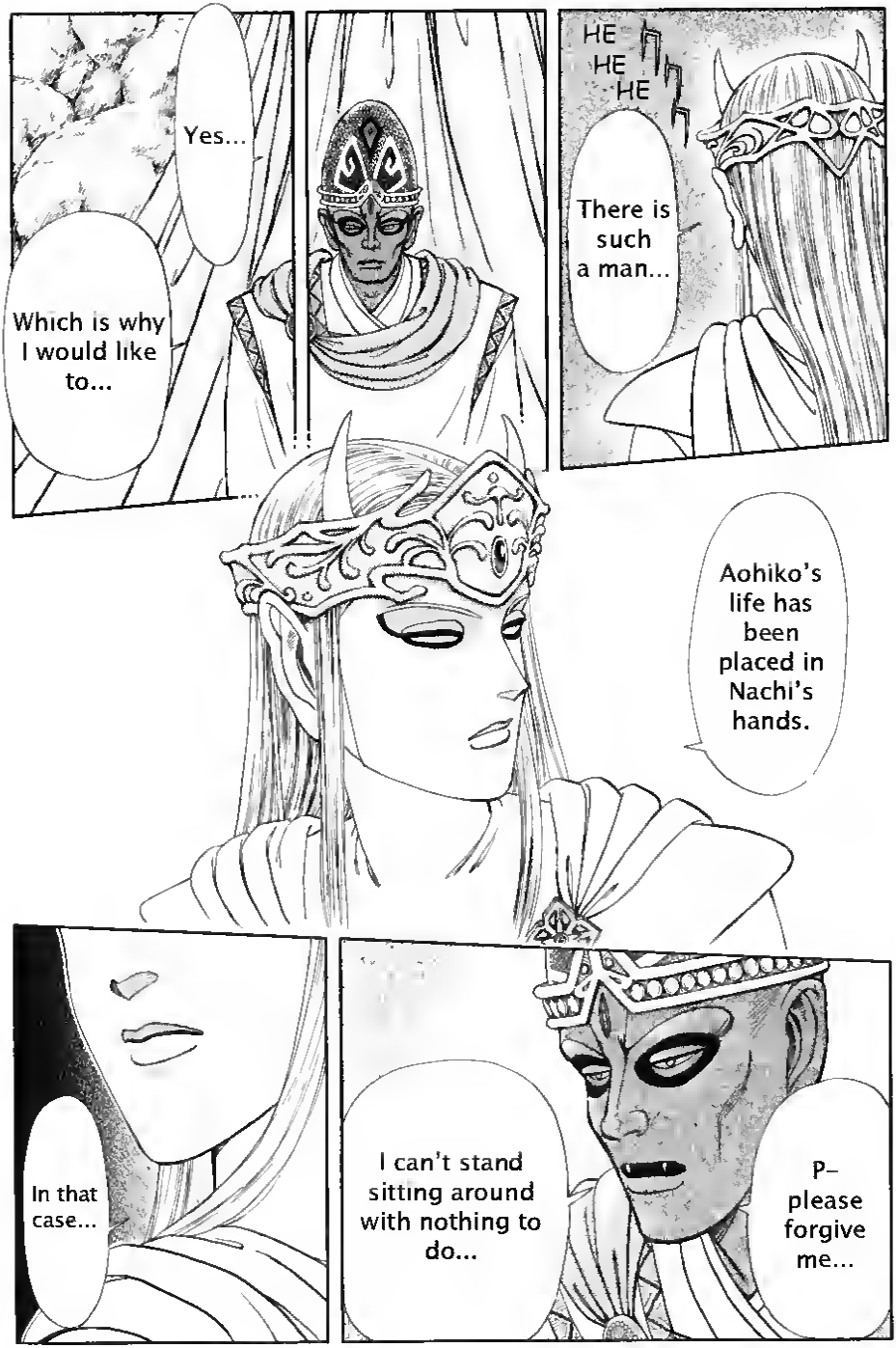
Kat-
sura...
I...
I've been
alone in
the world for
a long, long
time...
I don't know
who that
man is...
...but
he must
be even
more...
...alon
e than
I am.

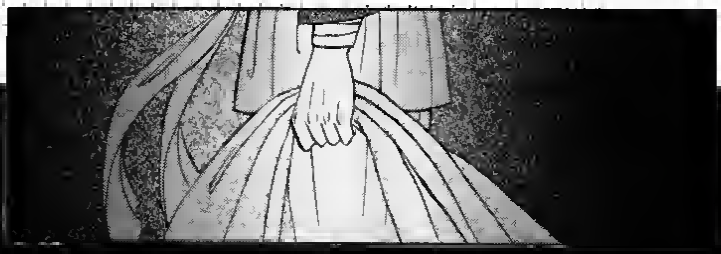
They say... this Yachio has finally returned to this country from foreign lands...

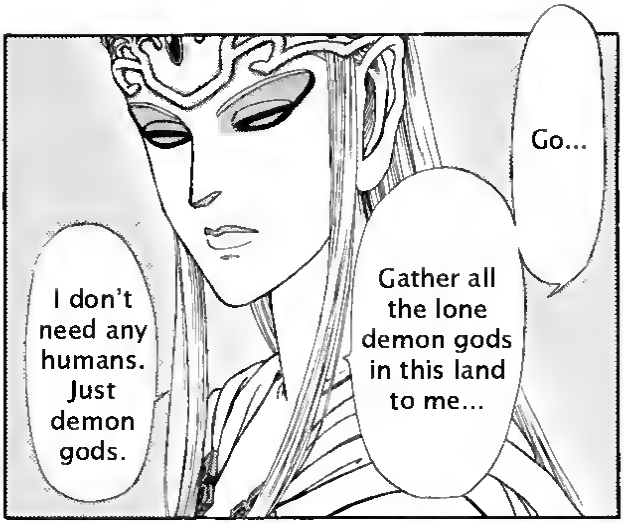

So Yoko really doesn't know anything about this person called Yachio.
"Finally" ... I see.
In that case...
Whoever he is, he's a threat ...
...this Yachio.
Yoko knows that lying to me is futile.
If he wields his sword against demigods and demon gods alike...

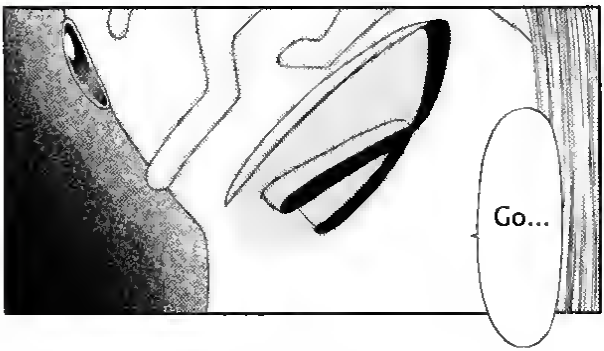
Futile: of no use, pointless

God destined to hesitate...
His wave-length was far from threaten-ing.
It was clearly human, though...
Someone who can face Your Holiness without his wavelength being disturbed...
That's why I'm saying he's a threat.


Yes...
Which is why I would like to...
HE HE HE
There is such a man...
Aohiko's life has been placed in Nachi's hands.
In that case...
I can't stand sitting around with nothing to do...
P- please forgive me...

In that case, gather the lone demon gods to me...
...






Many demigods are already gathering around Amane, Demigod of Universal Good, in Fuji...

Aohiko hasn't returned ...
Kyoji ...
On a moonlit night like this, the animals ...
I thought he went out to relieve himself.
I'm worried too.
I know.
Last night was a full moon...!
Moon-lit night!?

I'm going too.
I'm going out to look for him!
Stay here. If both of us are gone when he comes back, he'll worry!
Let me gooo!
Oh maaan!
Aohiko!?
Where are you!?

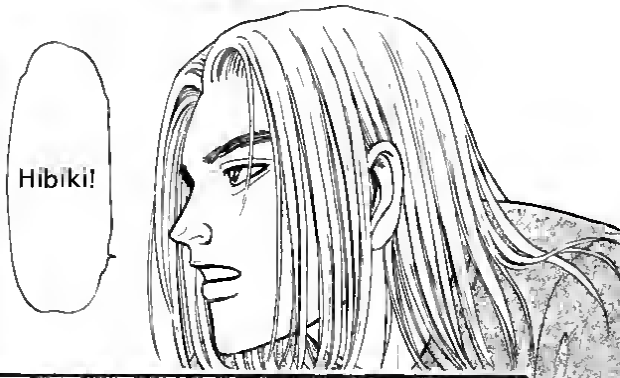
Hibiki!

I can't sleep. I'm just going out for some night air.

The next time your demon headband gets triggered, I'll have to kill you.
It'll affect your wound... Be careful!

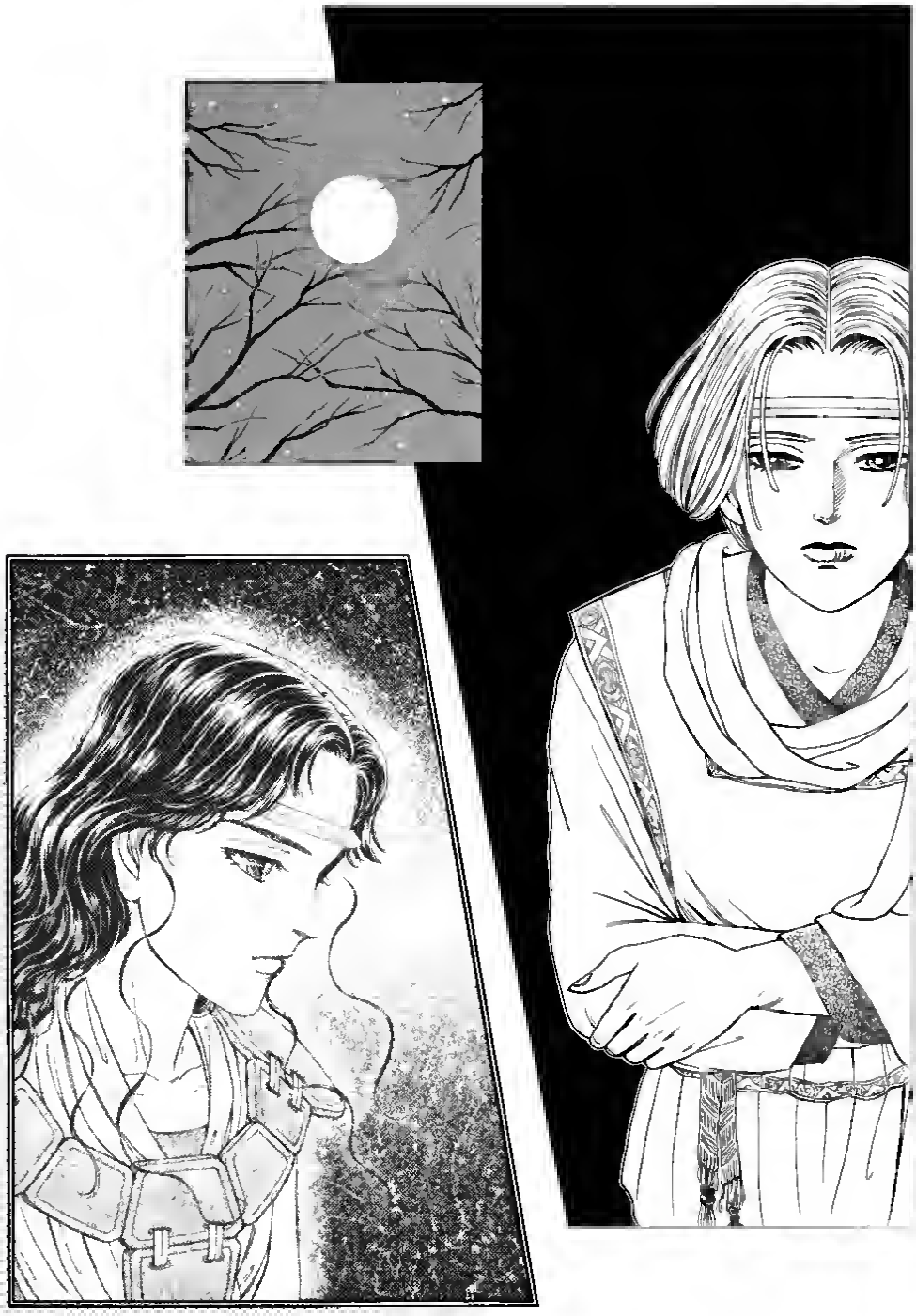
Hibiki! Yoko is no longer the Yoko you knew!

Yours is the only sword I wouldn't mind being struck by, Captain!


Hibiki!

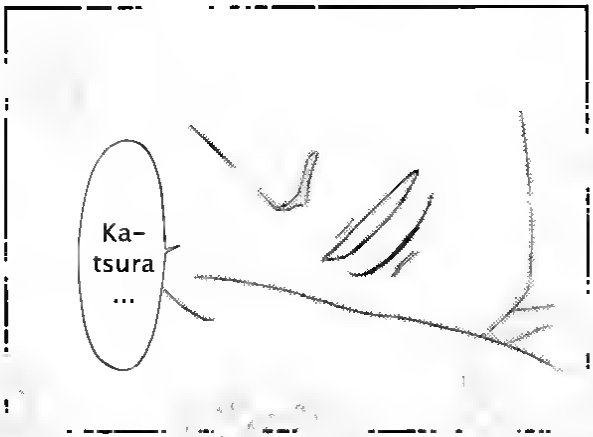
I'll leave my sword here.

Don't wish for the old Yoko.
Mind your own business!



Ichi-
rota
...

Ichi-
rota...


Ka-
tsura
...

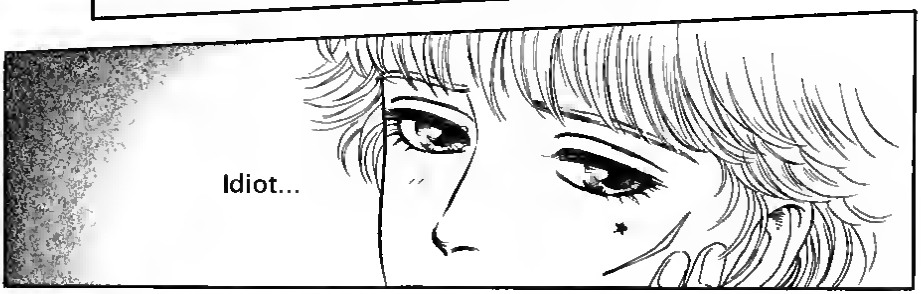
SMACK
So her name is Katsura, huh...?
Hmm ...

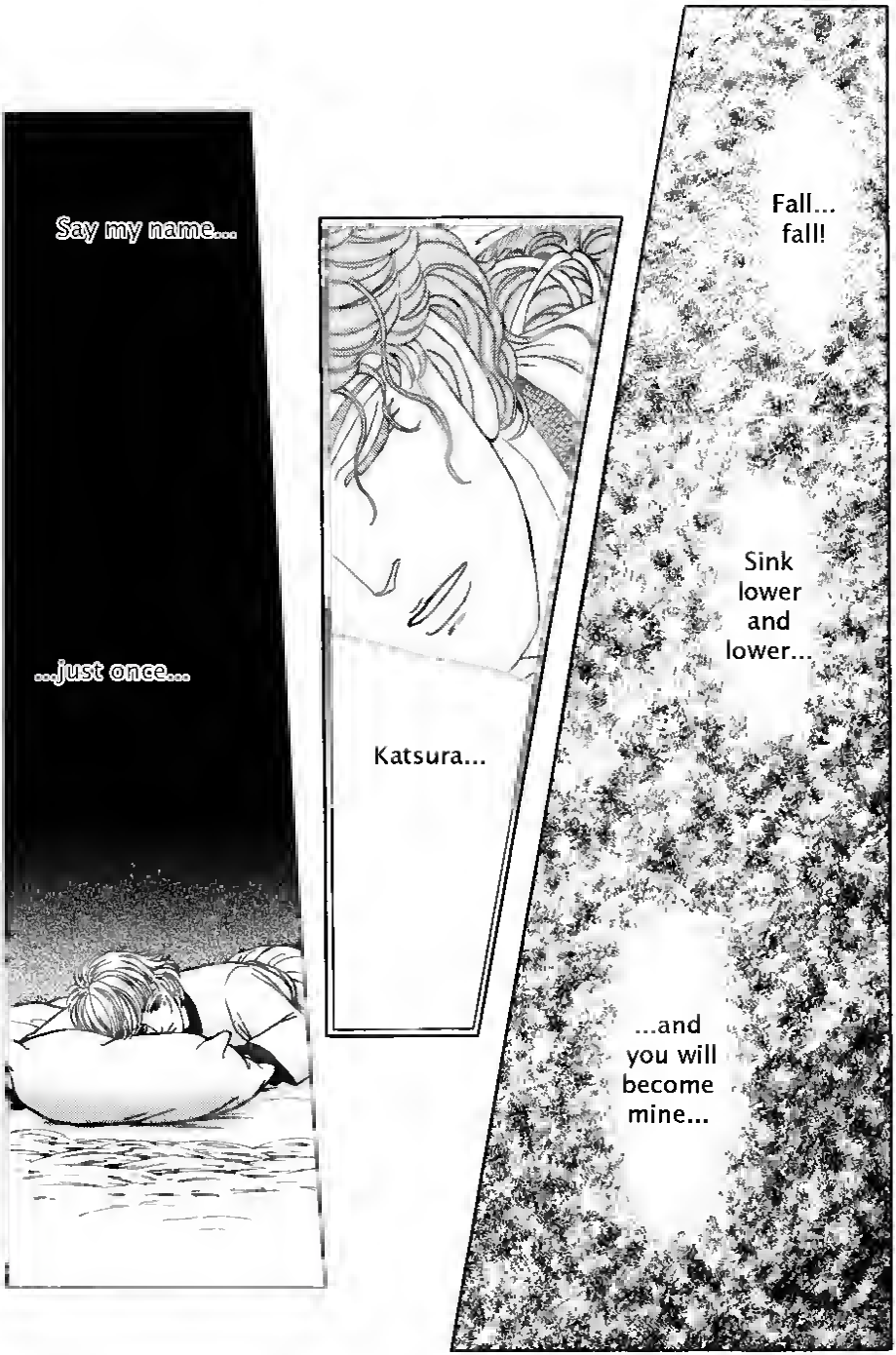
Wait.
Nachi!
If you want to leave, I'll leave instead!
You ignore me like that...
Nachi!

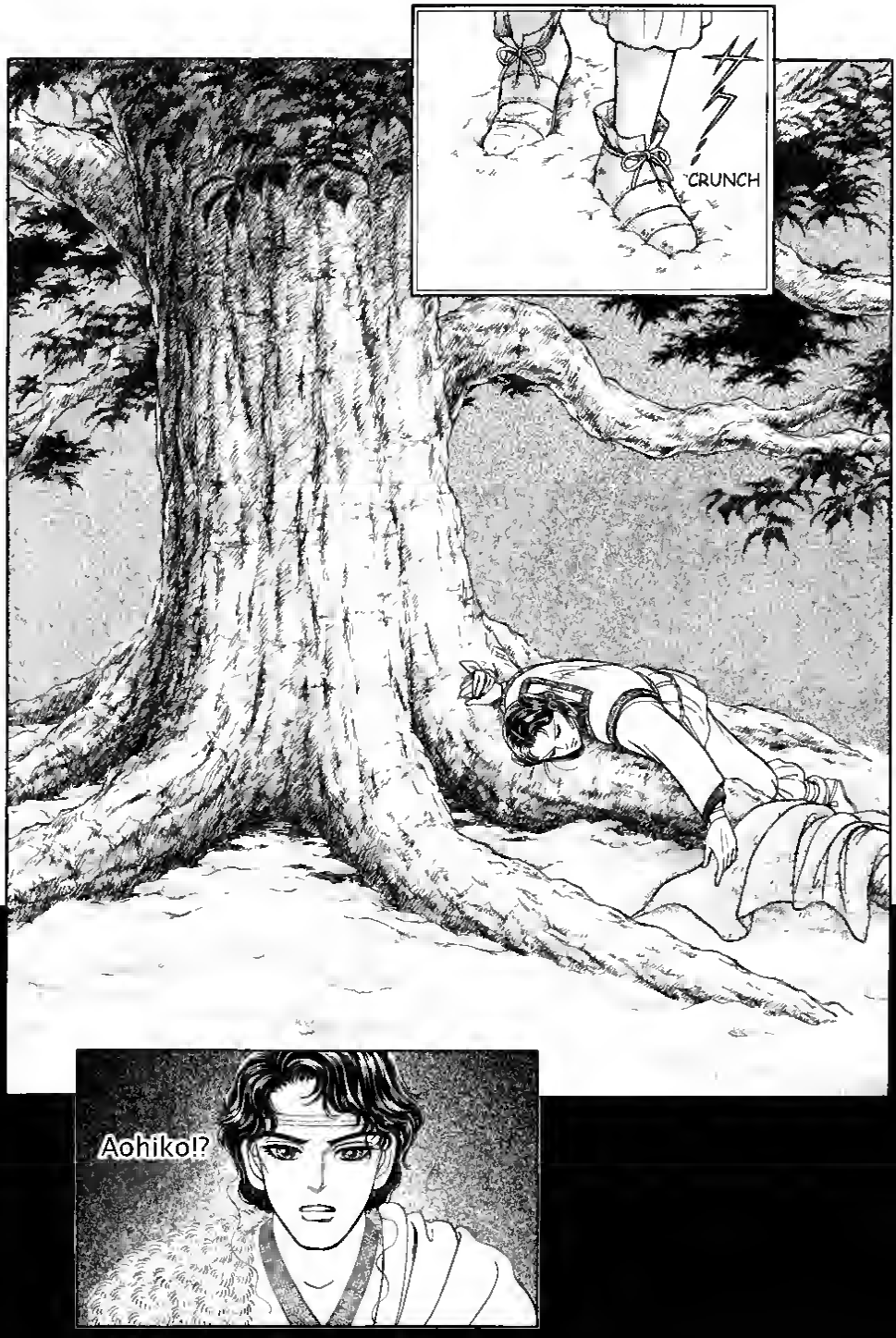
You enjoy hurting me, don't you!?
...and use me like a toy...
KER-CHAK
If you kick me, I'll kick back!
I'm not the kind of woman who'll just take that!
You...

Your defection back to the demon gods and acceptance of a demon headband were also efforts to debase yourself and distance yourself from that woman.

Every time you sleep with me, you make yourself more unworthy of this woman named Katsura...



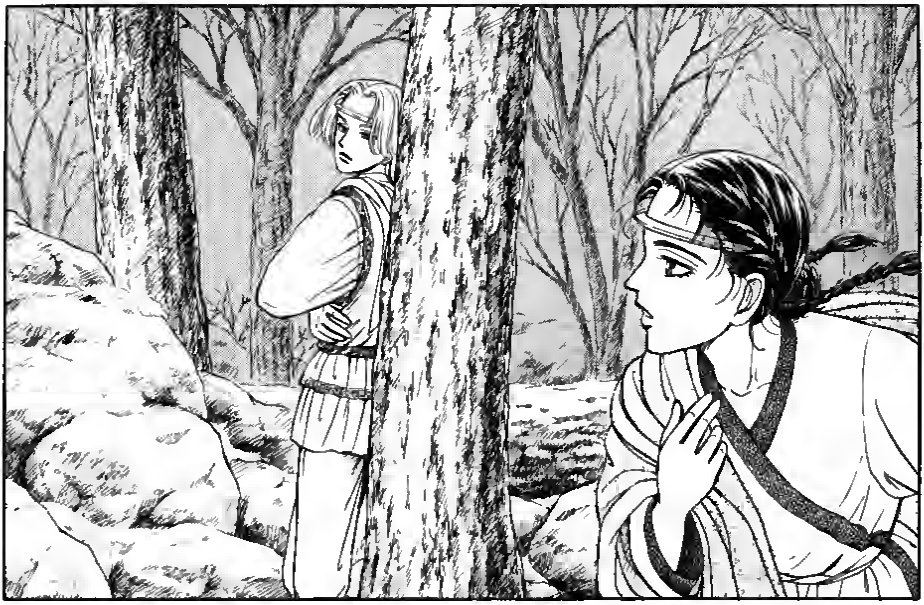

Say my name...
...just once...
Katsura...
Fall...
fall!
Sink
lower
and
lower...
...and
you will
become
mine...


CRUNCH
Aohiko!?

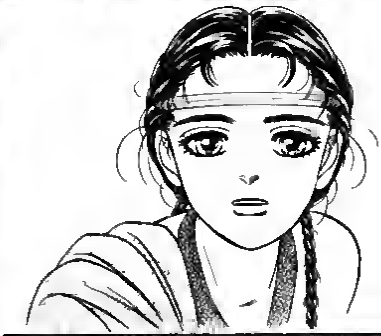
What are you doing here...?
He... has a pulse.

That wound is proof I believed in you to the end!
Ichi-rota!
Ow!
Chief!
The scar will never disappear!
I am Nachi!
Stay out of this!
Ichirota never existed anyway.

Ao-
hiko!
I can't sense
Aohiko's
wavelength!
Aohi-
koo!
Ao-
hiko!
Don't
leave
me
here
alone!
Ao-
hiko
-o!



How is your ...
... wound?



Hibiki...

He's not the kind of man who would leave you behind if he had a chance to escape...
Aohiko's disap-peared?

Don't worry about me.
Yoko never looked at me like that...

You're someone I don't know.
You're not Yoko...
I'm not the Yoko you knew... but I am Yoko.
I'm Yoko...
You're an eye-sore.

Hibiki...
Lord Kiyu said evil gives people the strength to live... and to never forget that...
I... agree with him...
...but that's not all there is...
I want you to know, too, that that's not all there is.
That's all I know.
It's enough for me.

Hibi-
ki!
Hibiki
...
Your
wound
...

Ahh!
You were ...
... pitying me, were-n't you?
I'd rather be hated by you than pitied!
NO!!

Takaya!
!
SLAP

That's why it's impossible for me to hate you.
Yoko hated you, Hibiki...
...but it was because she was drawn to you.
Who is Takaya to Toko...?
Don't make me hate you for real...
...

...and raised her...
Someone who found Toko when she was a baby on the verge of death...
Some-one who is irre-place-able...
Someone who became strong to protect Toko...
Someone who cares about Toko more than anyone else...
...made Toko's soul stay in Yoko...
Some-one who...
Enough ...

He was lying uncon-scious over there...
Aohi-ko!
Ah...

Aohi-ko!
Aohi-ko!
And you didn't have a hand in that?
He's not dead.
... sense his wave-length ...
I can't ...
Aohi-ko...
Please! Wake up!
Open your eyes!
Aohi-ko!

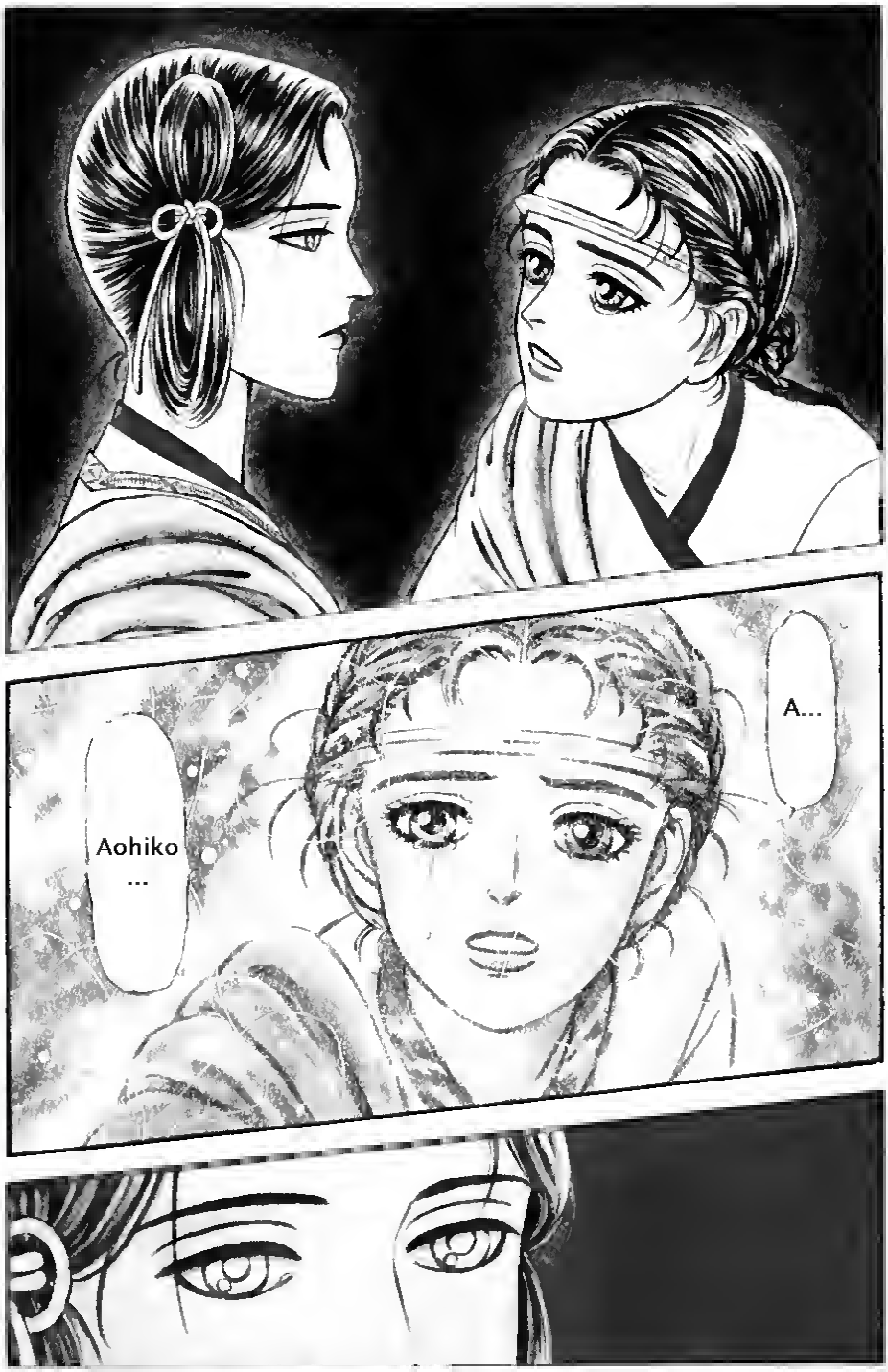
You two!
... Aohiko again!
You had to go after...
You did?
I just found him unconscious and carried him back.
Don't jump to conclusions!

A-Aohiko said...
...that one day... he'd lose his mind...
...that it's his des-tiny...
...and the time is drawing nearer...
He told me, "I am not permitted to fight against fate"...
So this is what he meant ...

What kind of illness is it?
What do you mean he'll lose his mind?
Don't you dare...
...even the fact that he is human ...
...that when that time came, he would forget every-thing...
He said he would forget ...
Don't you dare, Aohiko!

Fate will not destroy you!
Open your eyes!
I will!
SLAP
Aohiko!
Open your eyes!

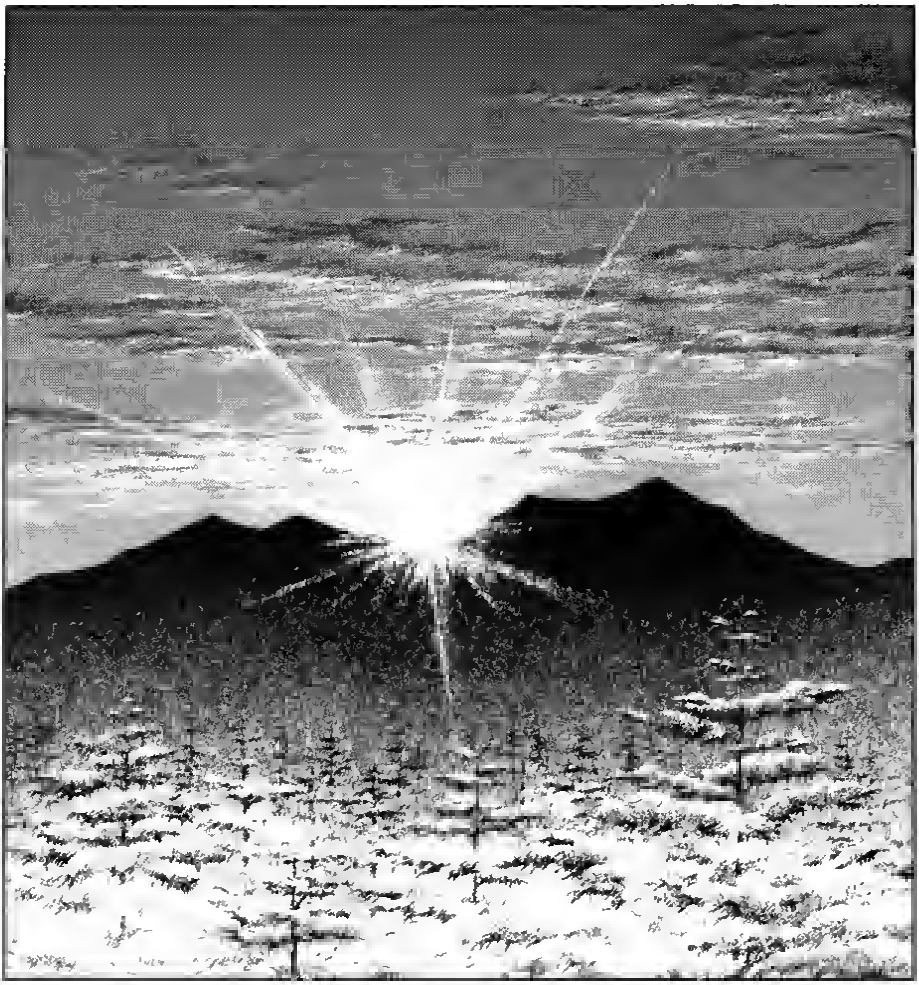
Stop it!
Aohi-ko!
Stop, Ichirota!
Aohi-ko!


A...
Aohiko
...

A...
Ao...
hiko
...
Aohi-
ko!
D-
do
you
...
...re-
mem-
ber
me?
Kyoji
...
Y-
you
remem-
ber!
Don't
scare
us like
that!

...
I'm sorry ...
...for worrying you.

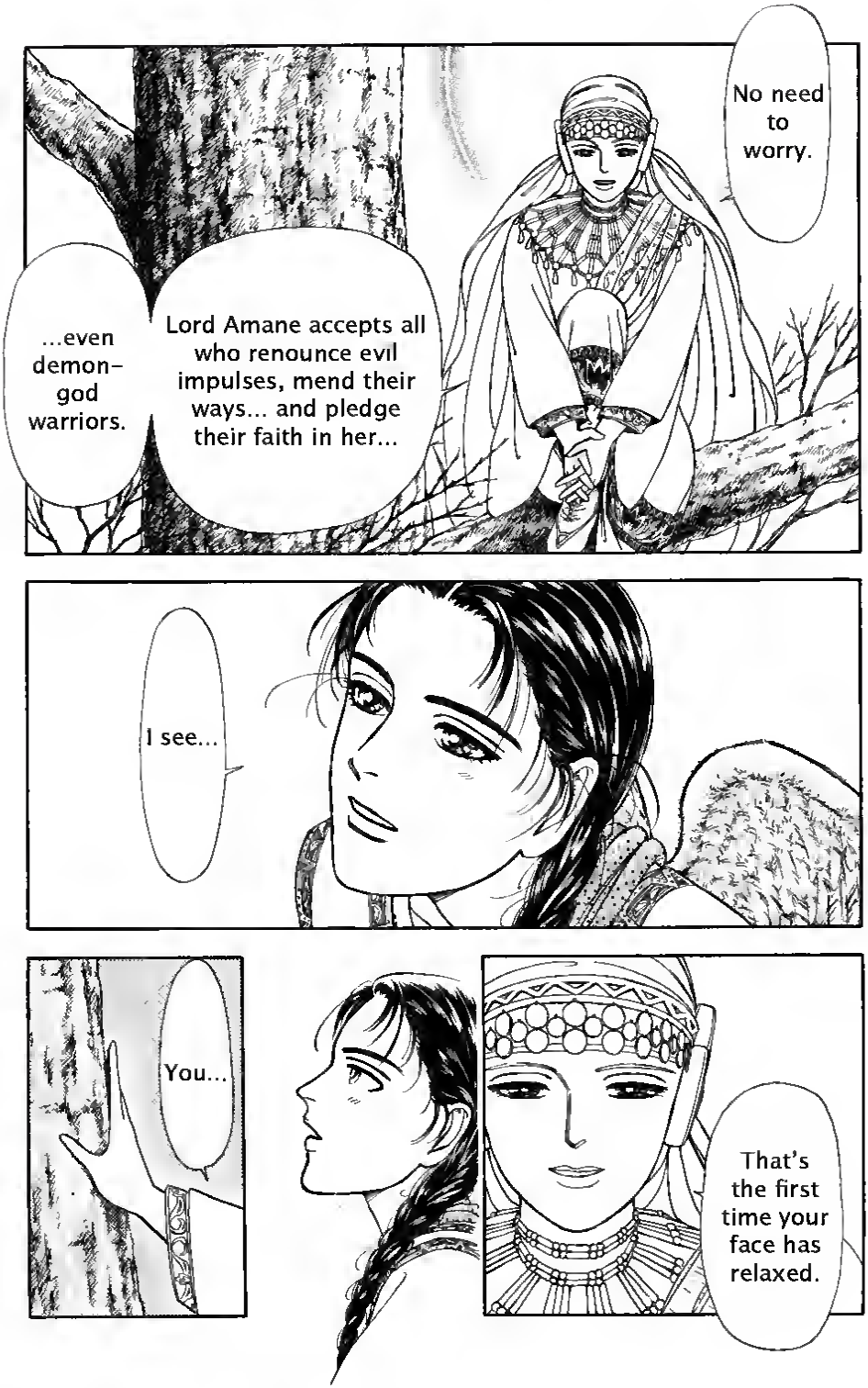
He's shaking.
...is shaking like this...
Fearless Aohiko...

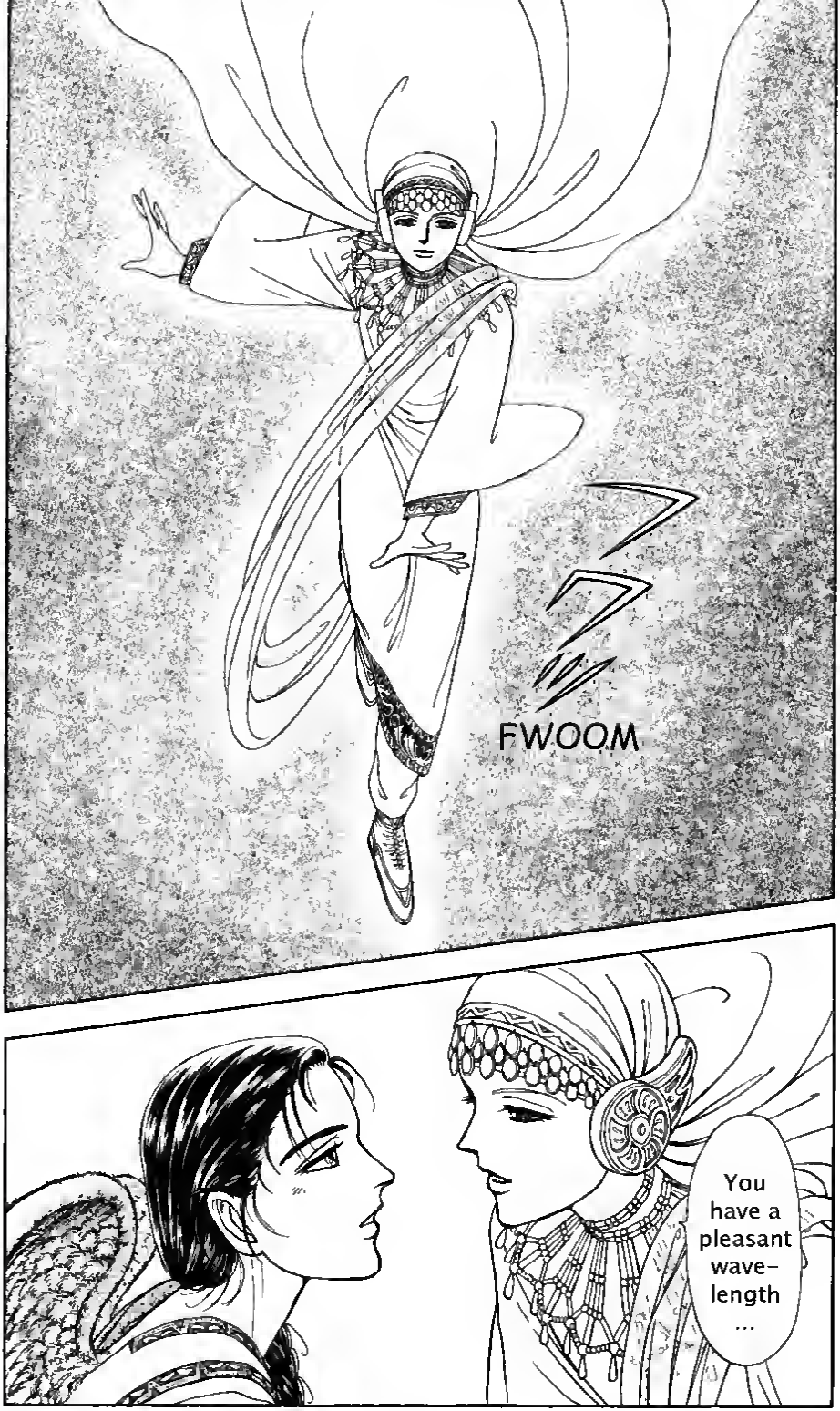


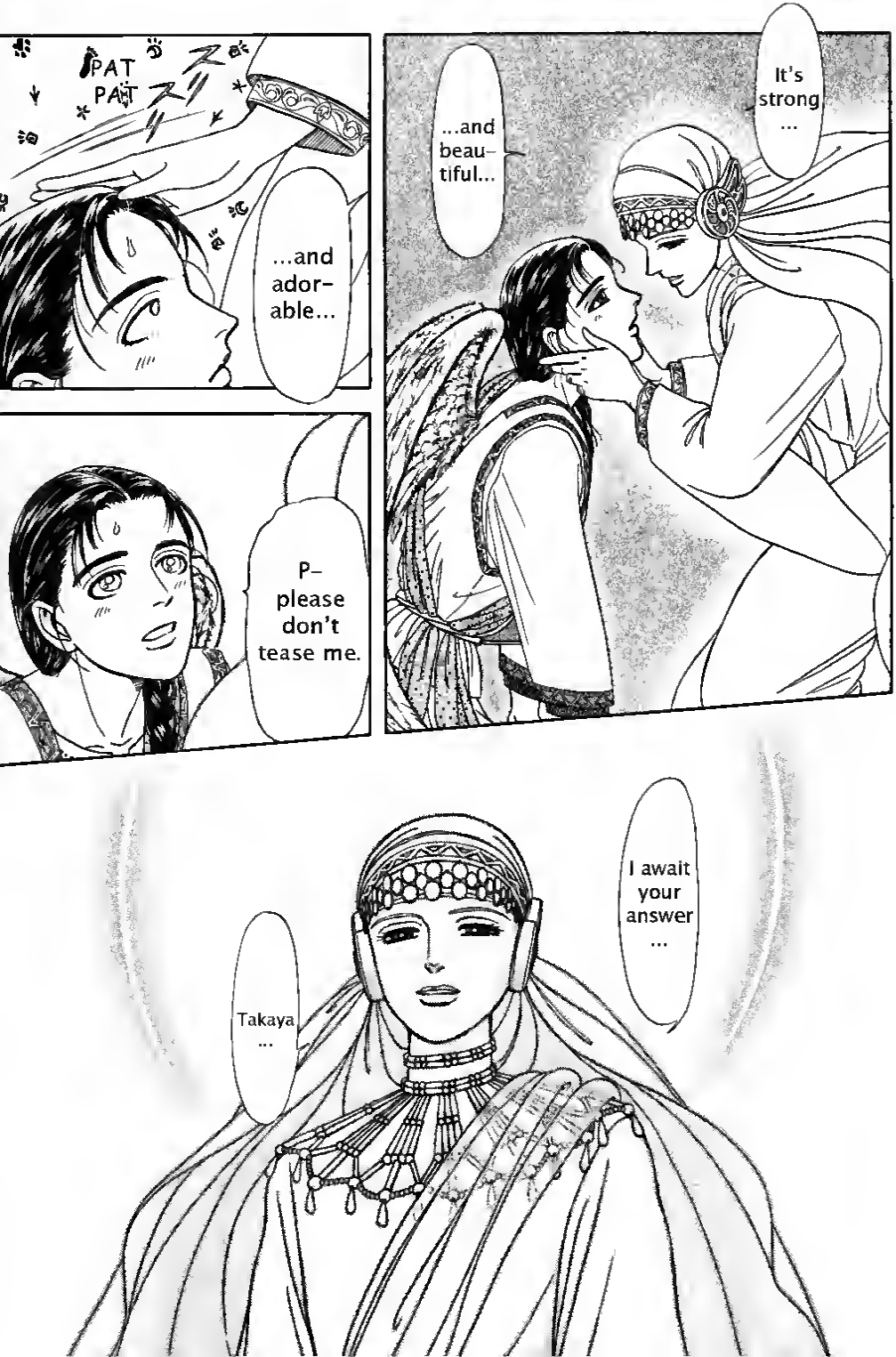
I appreciate your offer...

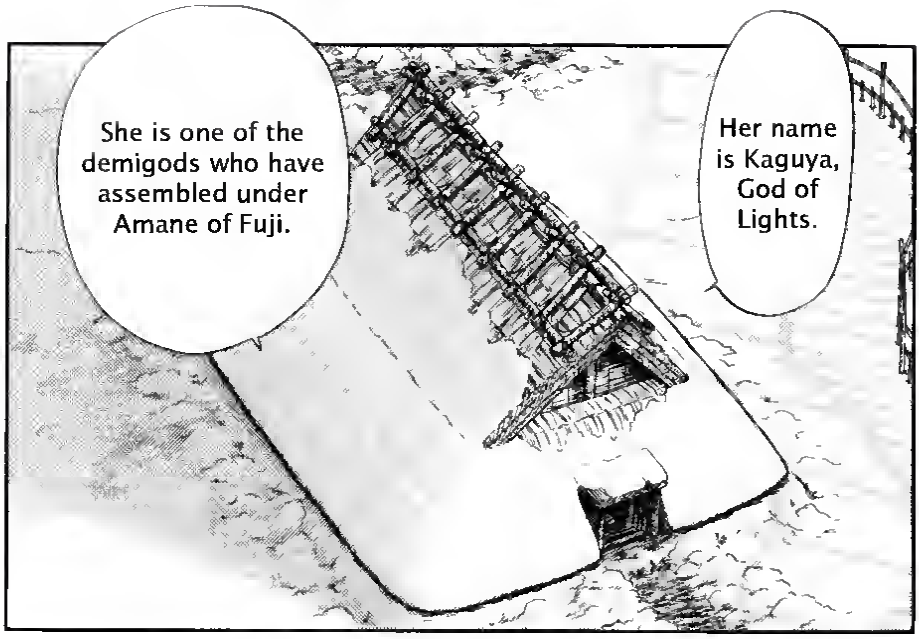
I'll wait until tomorrow morning.
Would you allow me some time...?
May I ask you something?

Will Lord Amane in Fuji heal any kind of illness?
Yes, any-thing ...
Yes...
...if the person is permitted to enter her barrier...
Some are...
... turned away?


No need to worry.
Lord Amane accepts all who renounce evil impulses, mend their ways... and pledge their faith in her...
...even demon-god warriors.
I see...
You...
That's the first time your face has relaxed.


FWOOM
You have a pleasant wave-length ...

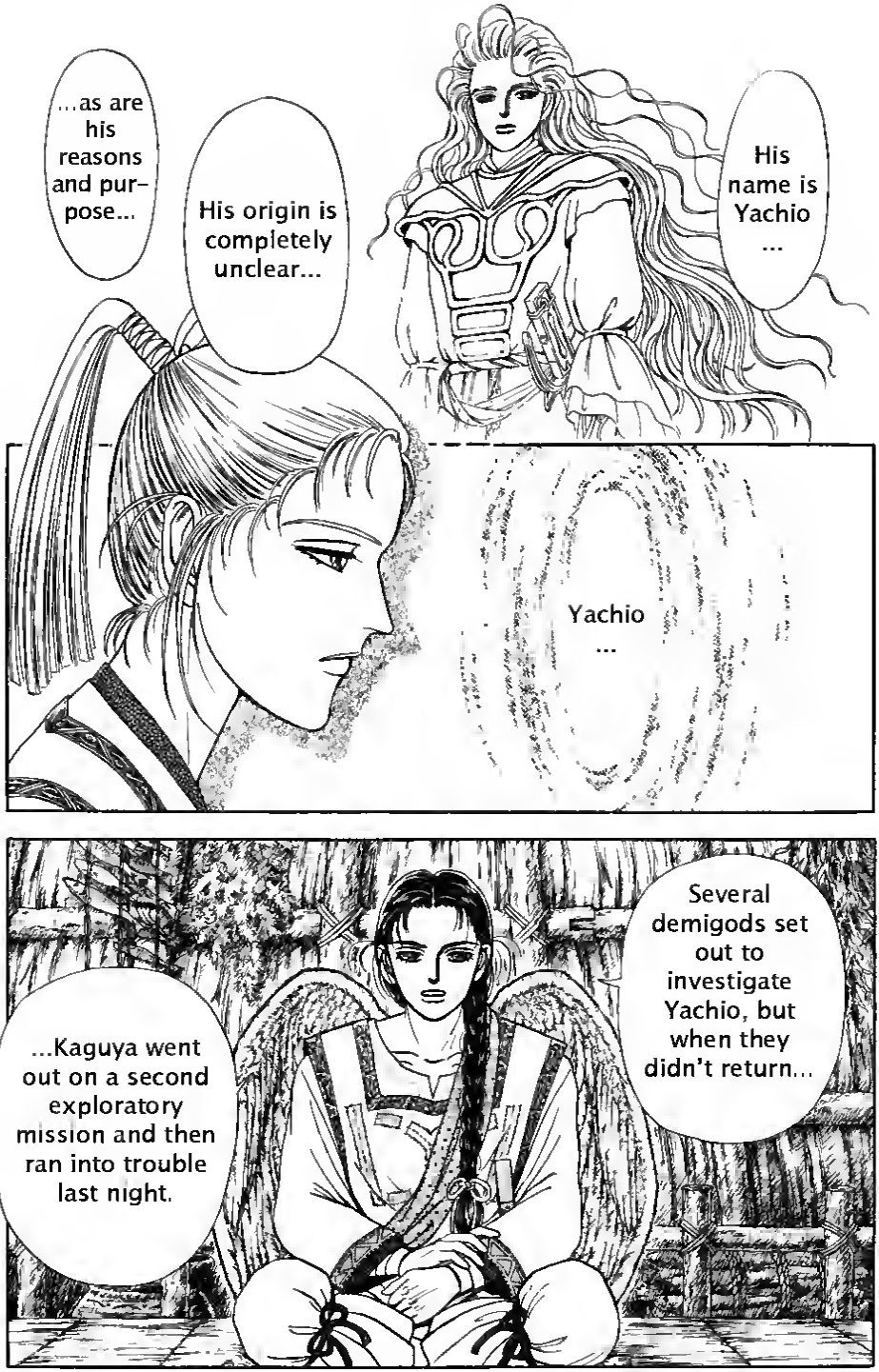

PAT
PAT
...and ador-able...
P-please don't tease me.
...and beau-tiful...
It's strong ...
I await your answer ...
Takaya ...

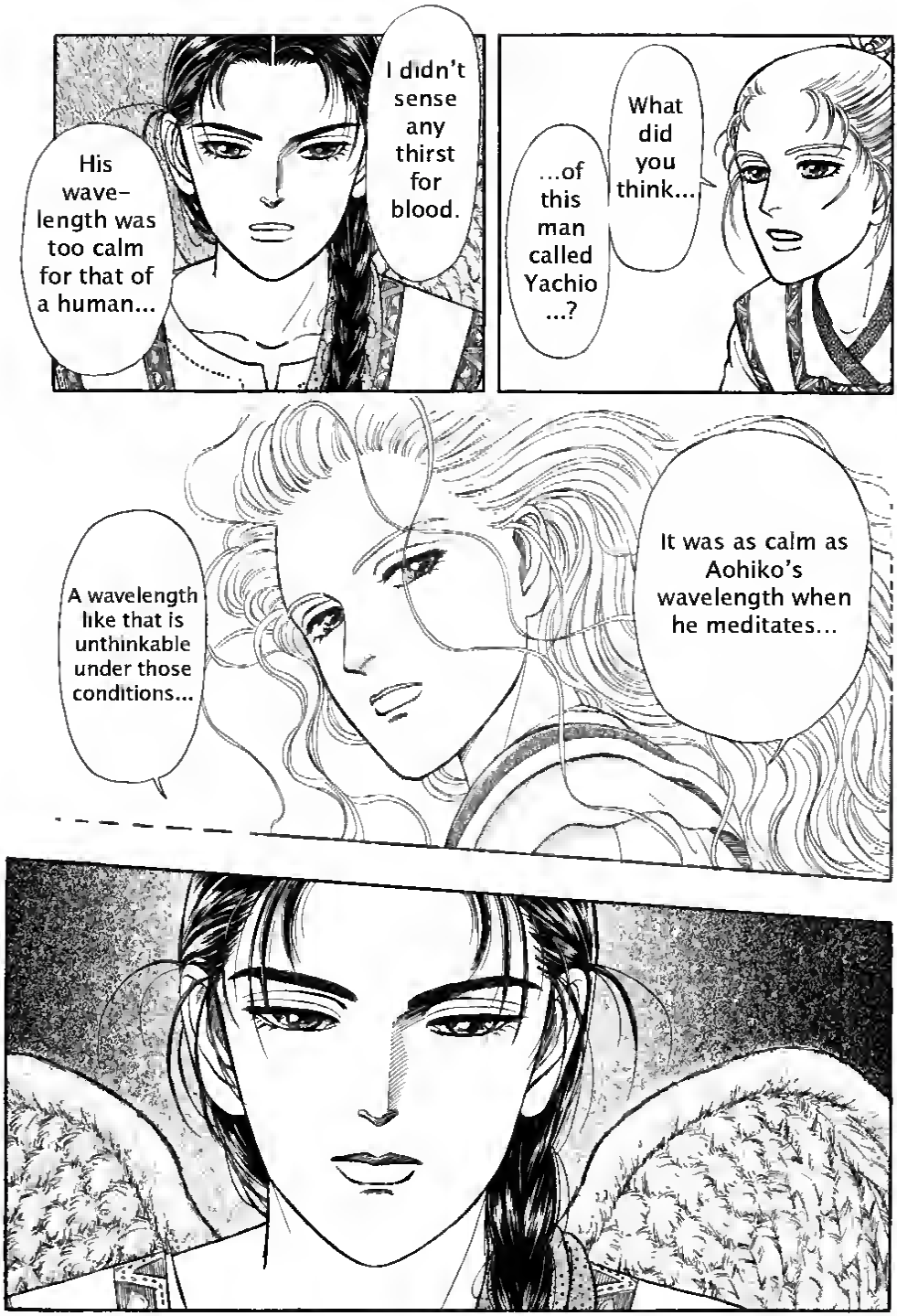

She is one of the demigods who have assembled under Amane of Fuji.
Her name is Kaguya, God of Lights.

Everyone would love it if she came to the village...
Why is she staying in the forest?

She said that if she did, it would detain her and she would have to heal the sick.

No...
She said she only has a little power left.
To fight demon gods?
Does she not heal sickness for the same reason as Lord Risson...?
Then it's good the villagers didn't see what happened last night.
I see ...
So...? What about the man who looked like Katsura?


His name is Yachio ...
His origin is completely unclear...
...as are his reasons and purpose...
Yachio ...
Several demigods set out to investigate Yachio, but when they didn't return...
...Kaguya went out on a second exploratory mission and then ran into trouble last night.


I didn't sense any thirst for blood.
His wave-length was too calm for that of a human...
What did you think...
...of this man called Yachio ...?
It was as calm as Aohiko's wavelength when he meditates...
A wavelength like that is unthinkable under those conditions...

...I was over-whelmed ...
But ...
...when he said "generations of people more than 10,000 years into the future"...
...by this immense "loneli-ness"...
It was as if he would live on through all those generations...

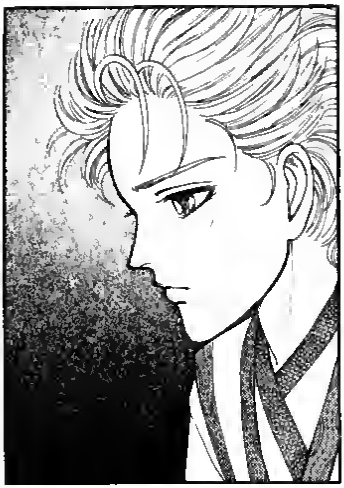
What are you adults getting all sentimental about!?
I was thinking about his "loneliness" too.
The longer we're together, the more we think alike.
If there's nothing there, how will we meet up with Yoko and the others?
What are we gonna do if this Yachio guy goes after Amane of Fuji to destroy her?
And what about Tamia's condition...?
Told ya!
Even I make a good point now and then.
We don't have time to indulge in sentimentality.
Kai's right.

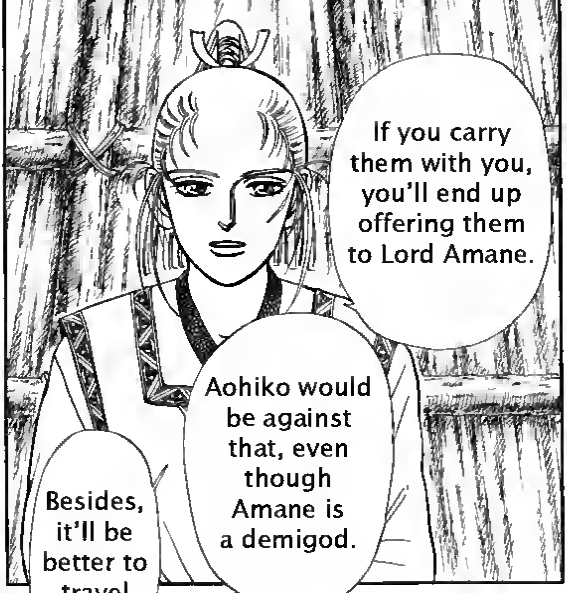
I don't want to fight Yachio when we don't know anything about him...
...but we'll be in trouble if things unfold as Kai said before we get there...
Actually ...

Huh?
Actually ...
What!? If you've got something to say, spit it out!

Kaguya offered to accompany me to Fuji.
Takaya ...
...alone ...?
So you would go on ahead...
Takaya can fly there...
Alone ...?
Ahead...?

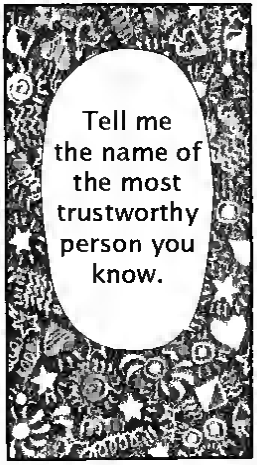
I see...
She said she would wait until tomorrow morning.
I don't feel like going ahead without you...
Ka-tsura ...
You'd better leave the sacred mirrors with me.

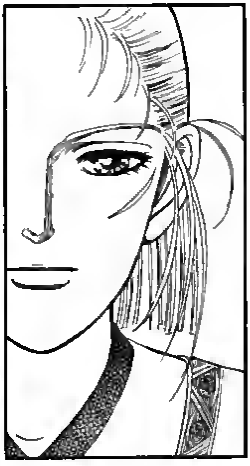


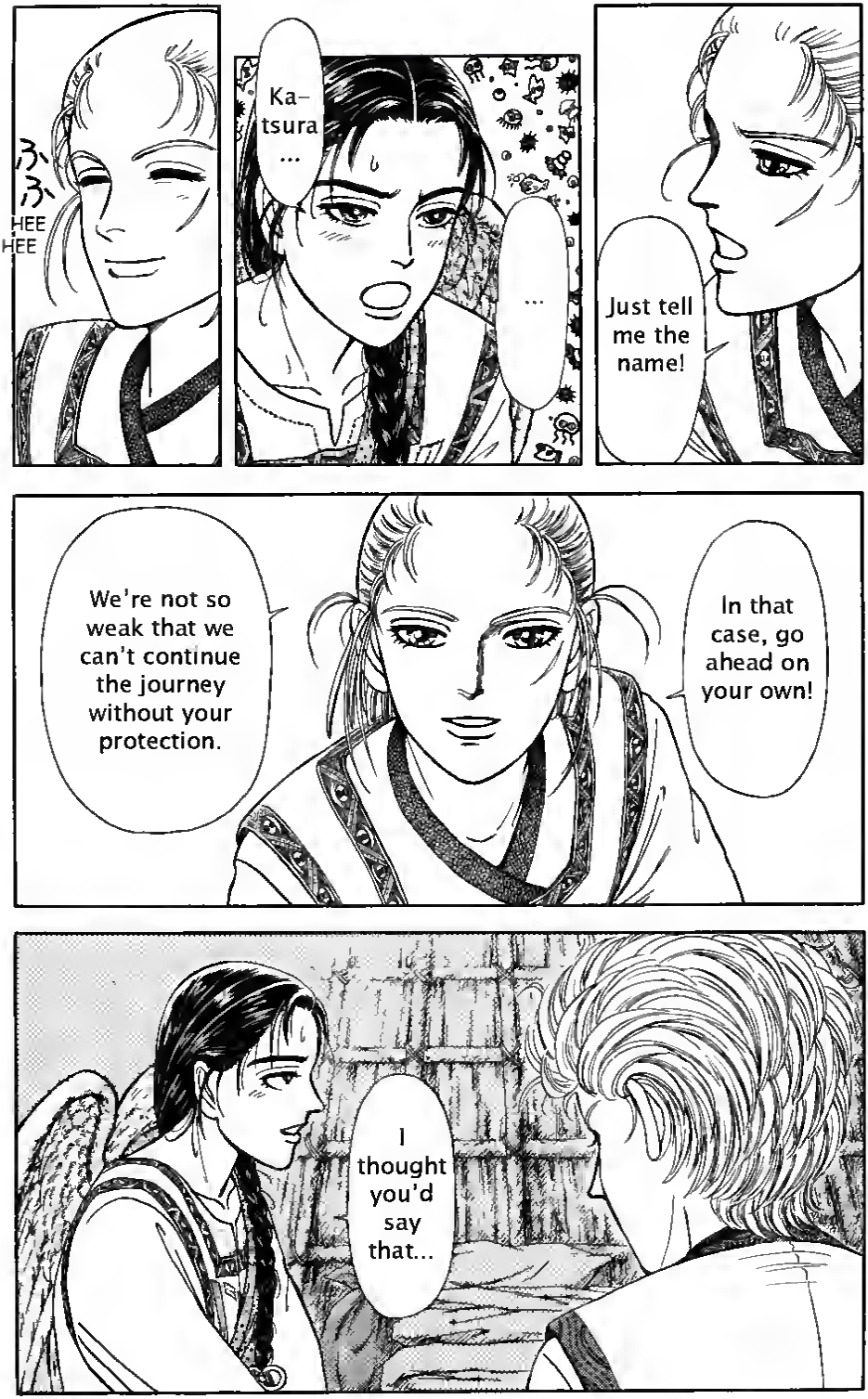

If you carry them with you, you'll end up offering them to Lord Amane.
Aohiko would be against that, even though Amane is a demigod.
Besides, it'll be better to travel light...

Kat-sura ...!

... going with this ...?
Where are you...

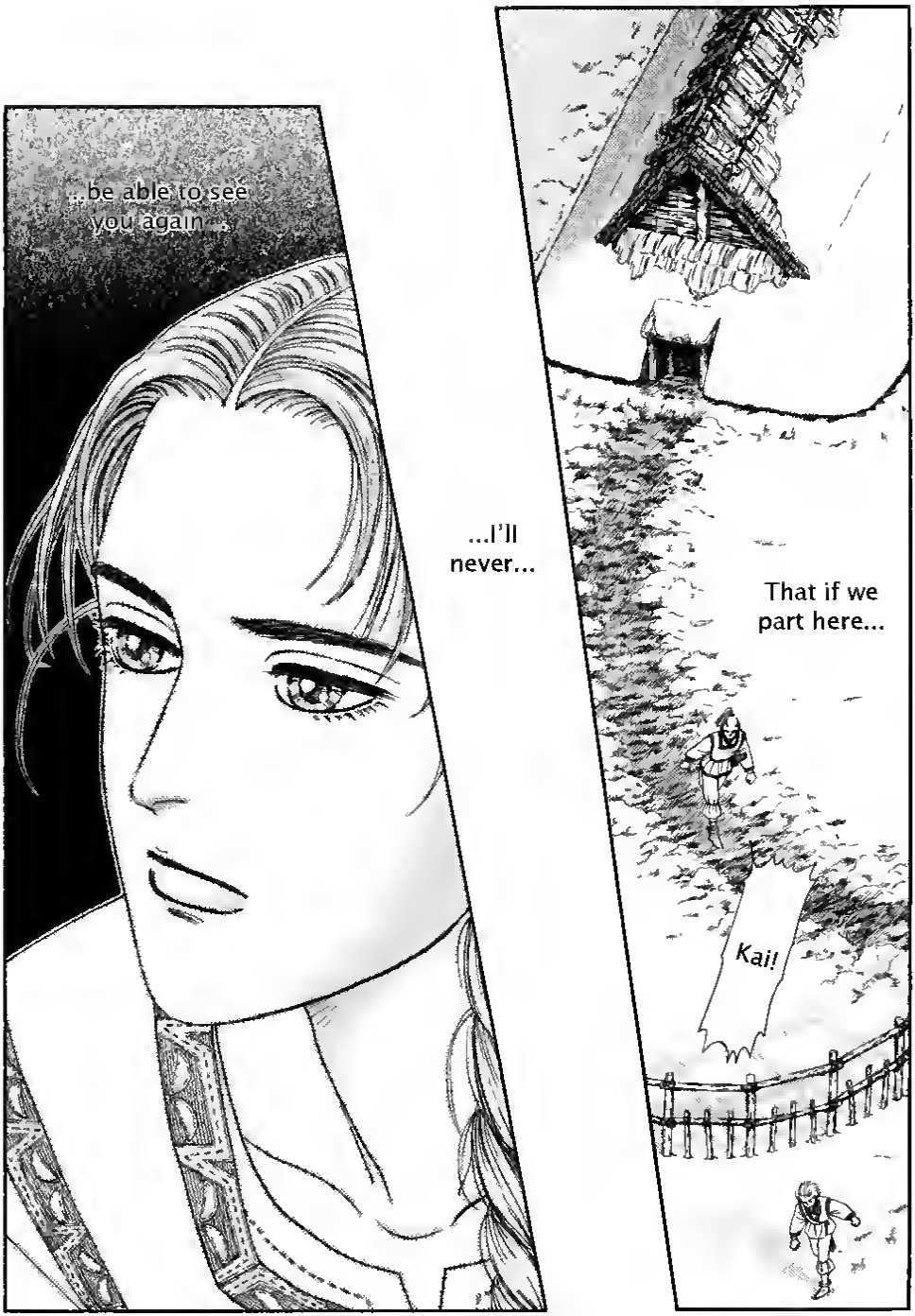

Tell me the name of the most trustworthy person you know.



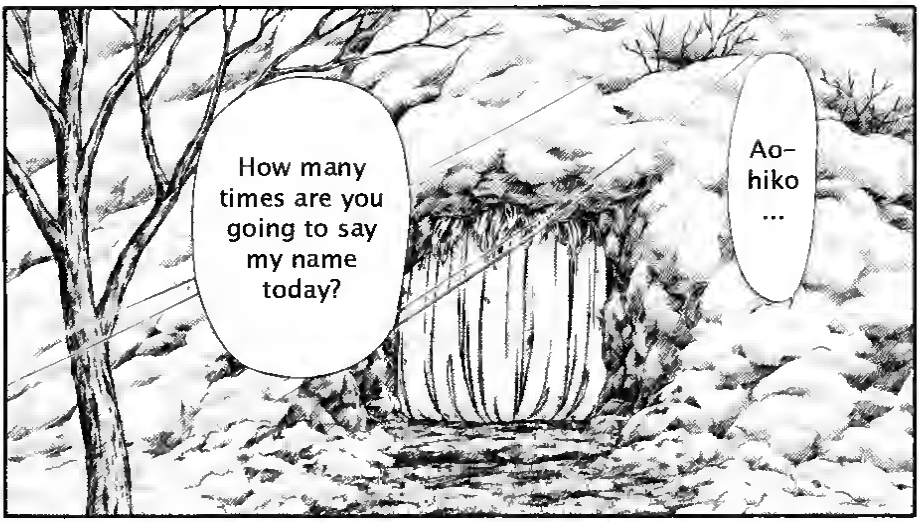

ふふ
HEE HEE
Ka-tsura ...
...
Just tell me the name!
We're not so weak that we can't continue the journey without your protection.
In that case, go ahead on your own!
I thought you'd say that...

Kai!?
I'm just a third wheel anyway!
Do whatever you like!
Kai!

Let me handle this!
Go tell Hakuji about the situation.
I have a bad feeling about this...
...Katsura...


...be able to see you again...
...I'll never...
That if we part here...
Kai!

Ao-
hiko
...


How many times are you going to say my name today?
Ao-
hiko
...

I still have time... Just like how the lingering snow doesn't melt all at once.

But
...

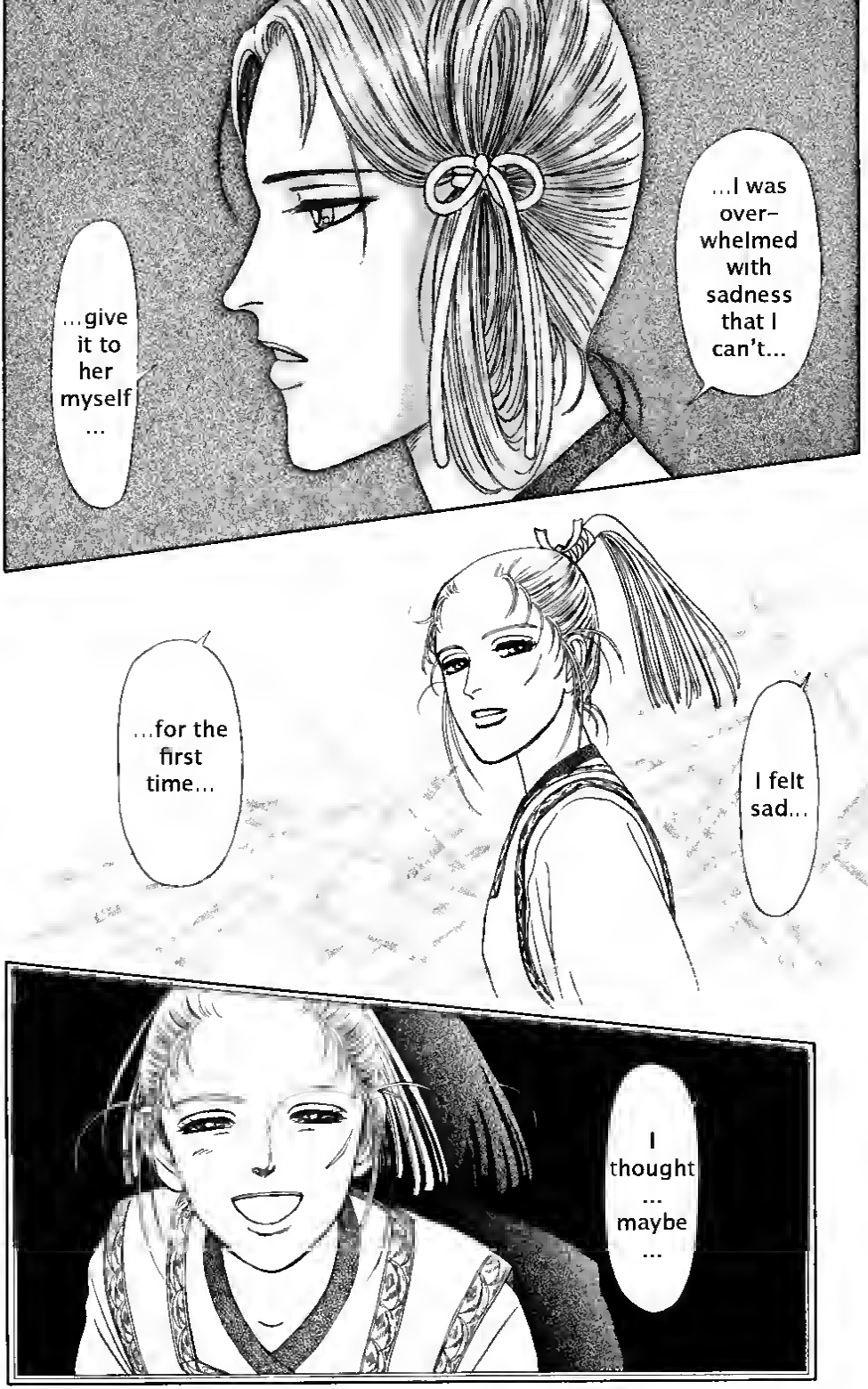
Is there nothing I can do?
But Aohiko... what should I do?
Aohiko! Your wound's reopened!
Ah...
...I'd like to leave it in your care...
When I finish this comb...
Stop! You need to wait for your hand to heal more before you make anything...

...I gave Katsura a comb...
A long time ago...
A comb ...!?
It's been a long time, so the comb will break soon.
Cherished it more than anything else.
I know...
She's cherished it ever since...
If Katsura receives it from me, it'll just make her sad!
Give it to her your-self.
I won't keep it for you!
No...

...never cursed my fate...
I...
I never lamented or feared it.
I always thought...
...that if I had no control over it... all I could do was quietly accept it...

So I...
...was free from unhap-piness...
But freedom from unhap-piness...
...also means freedom from happi-ness...
I was free of every-thing...
Happi-ness and un-happi-ness...
Good and evil...
Love and hate...
It was the only way I could stay sane...

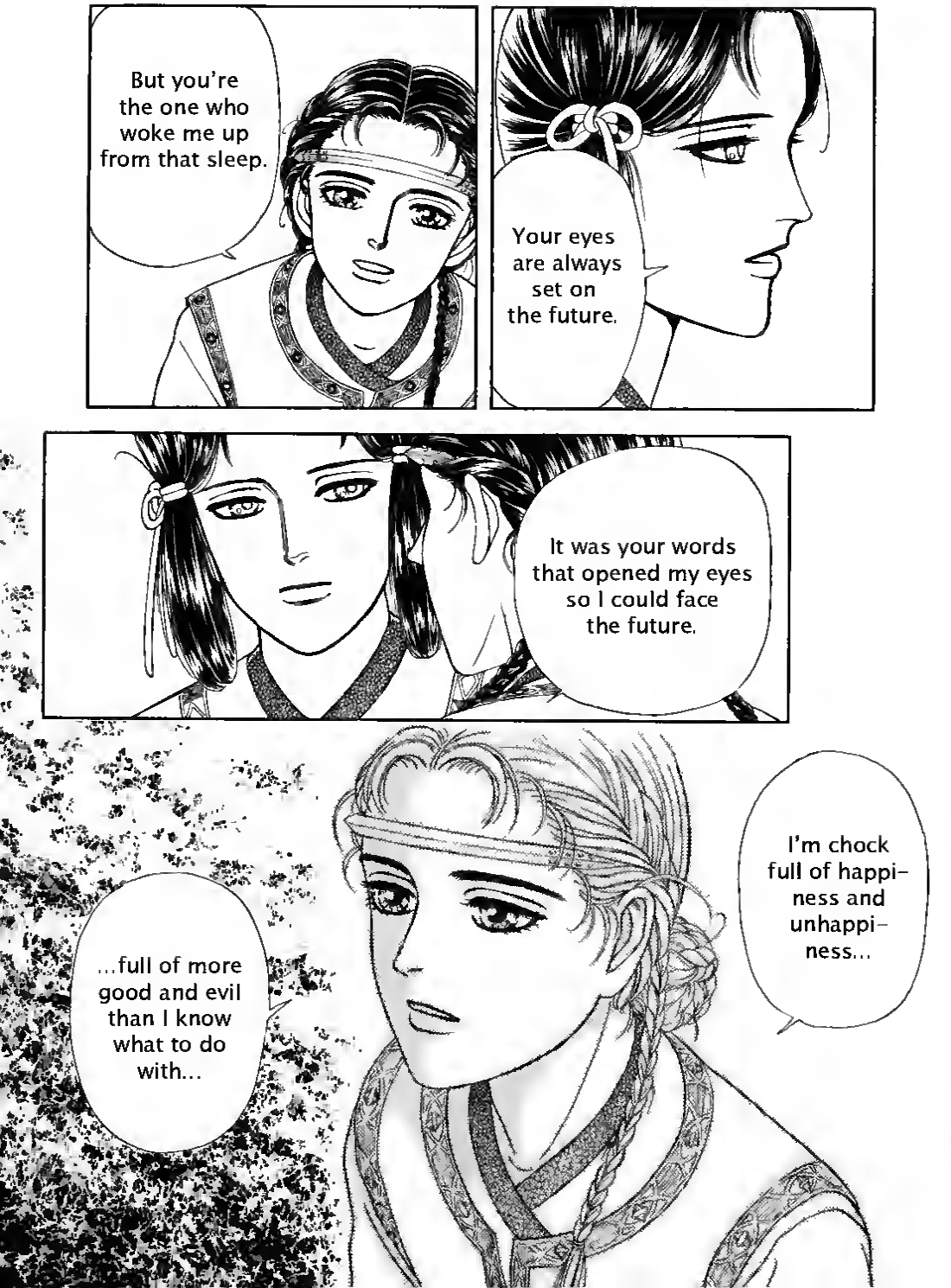
The universe is infinitely beautiful and harsh...
I was glad just to exist in it...
That was enough ...
But as I was making this comb...


...I was over-whelmed with sadness that I can't...
...give it to her myself ...
I felt sad...
...for the first time...
I thought ... maybe ...

...the sadder I feel...
...the deeper my sadness... the greater my happiness is...

Please give her the comb for me...
Ao-hiko ...

That's all I can do for Katsura now...
They say the demigod who lives in Fuji heals all illnesses...
Don't give up...
You...
...never give up, do you?
Give the comb to Katsura yourself...


But you're the one who woke me up from that sleep.
Your eyes are always set on the future.
It was your words that opened my eyes so I could face the future.
I'm chock full of happiness and unhappiness...
...full of more good and evil than I know what to do with...

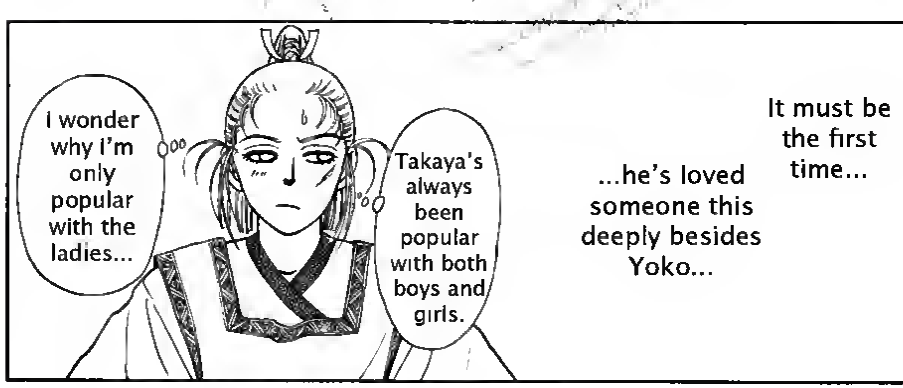
...than I ever did as Toko or Yoko...
...I feel closer to the universe...
But ...
The flowers look so beautiful...
...look so much more beautiful than they did before...
The sky, the wind... the sun and stars...

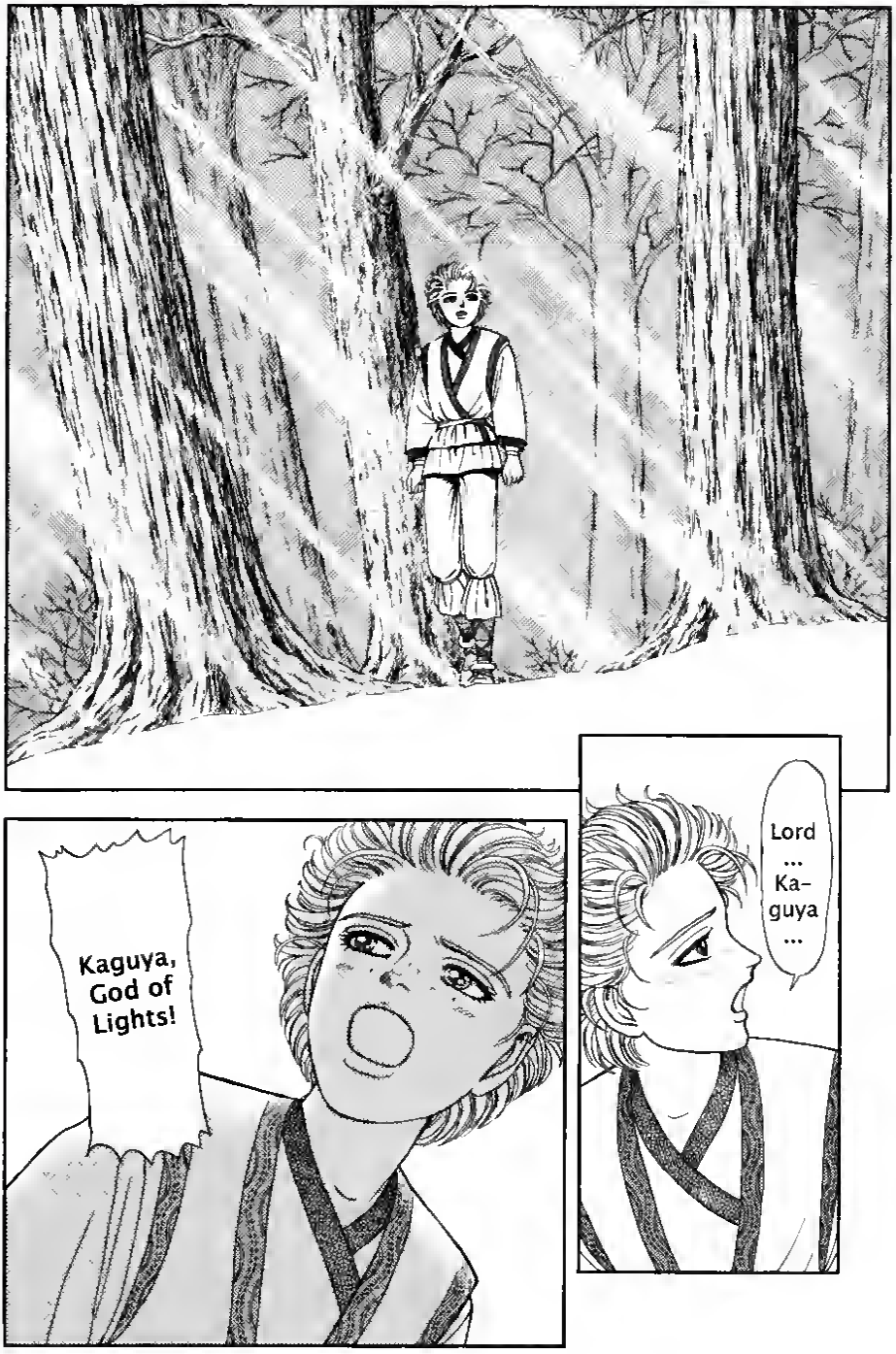
You're a miracle child...
Don't give up.
You'll see them again.
Kat-sura...
...and Takaya ...

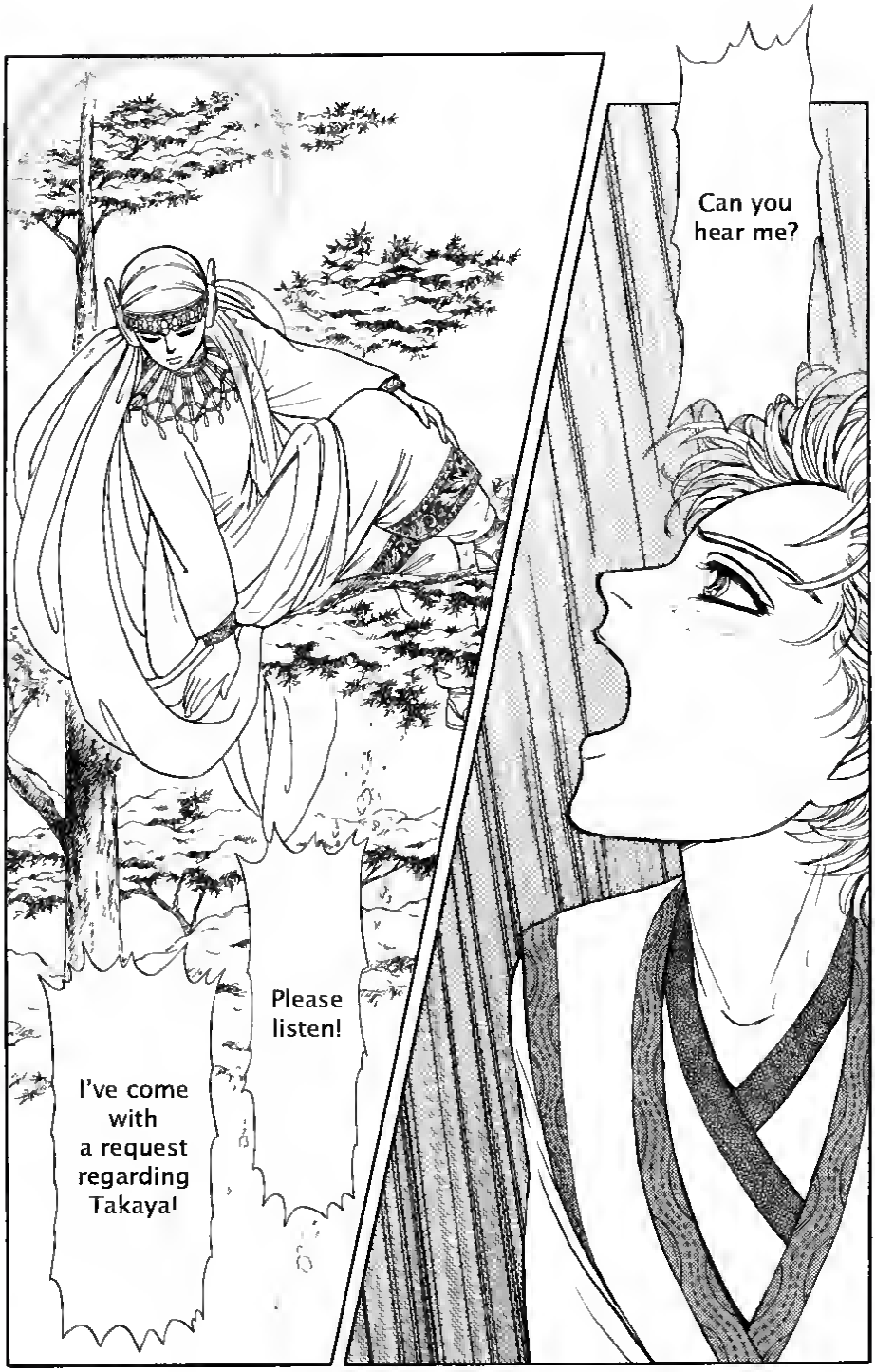
Kai!
Where on earth did that boy go!?

I said I would handle it... What should I do!?

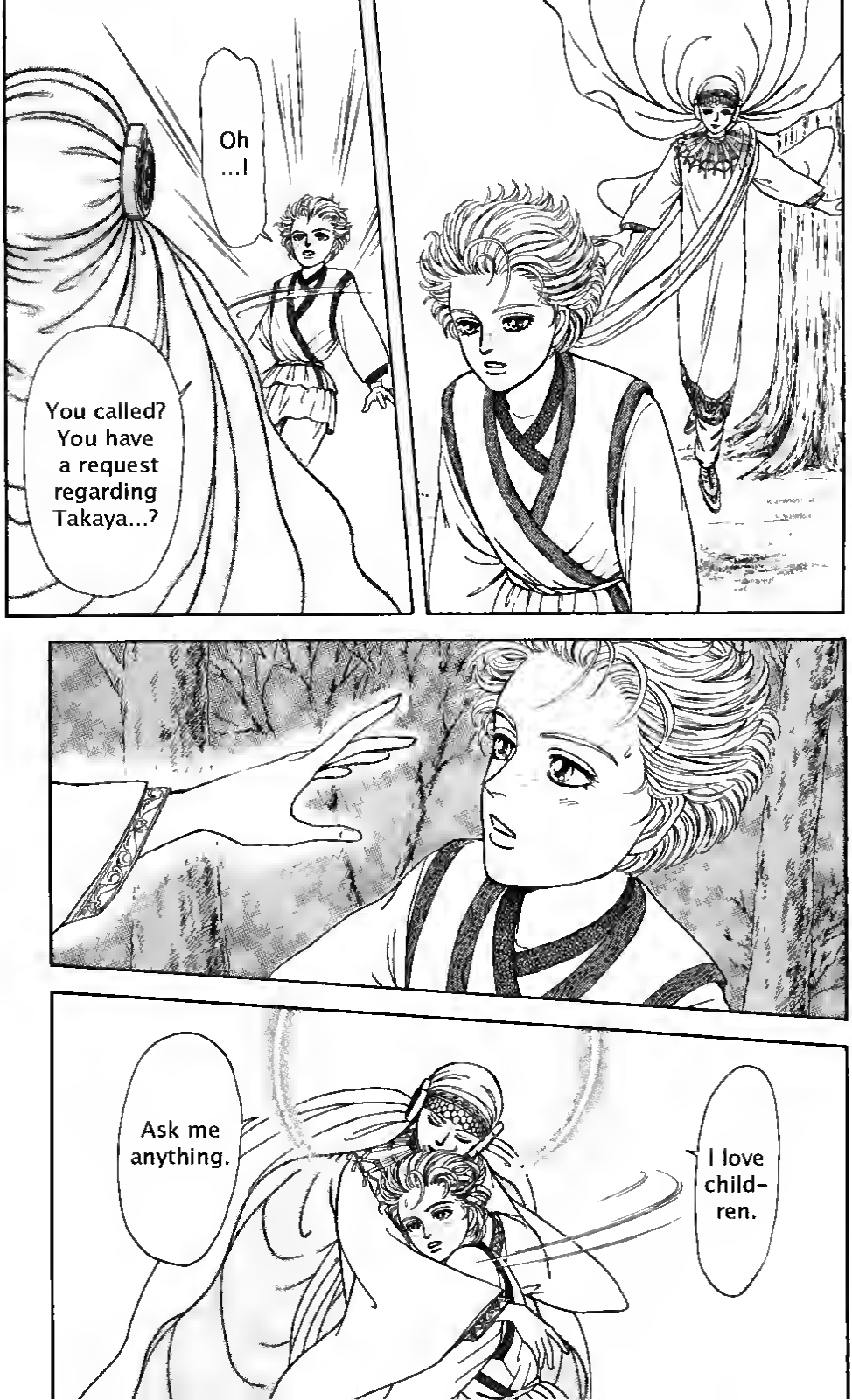
And he's not enough of a kid to cling to him and cry...
He's not enough of an adult to see Takaya off with a smile...

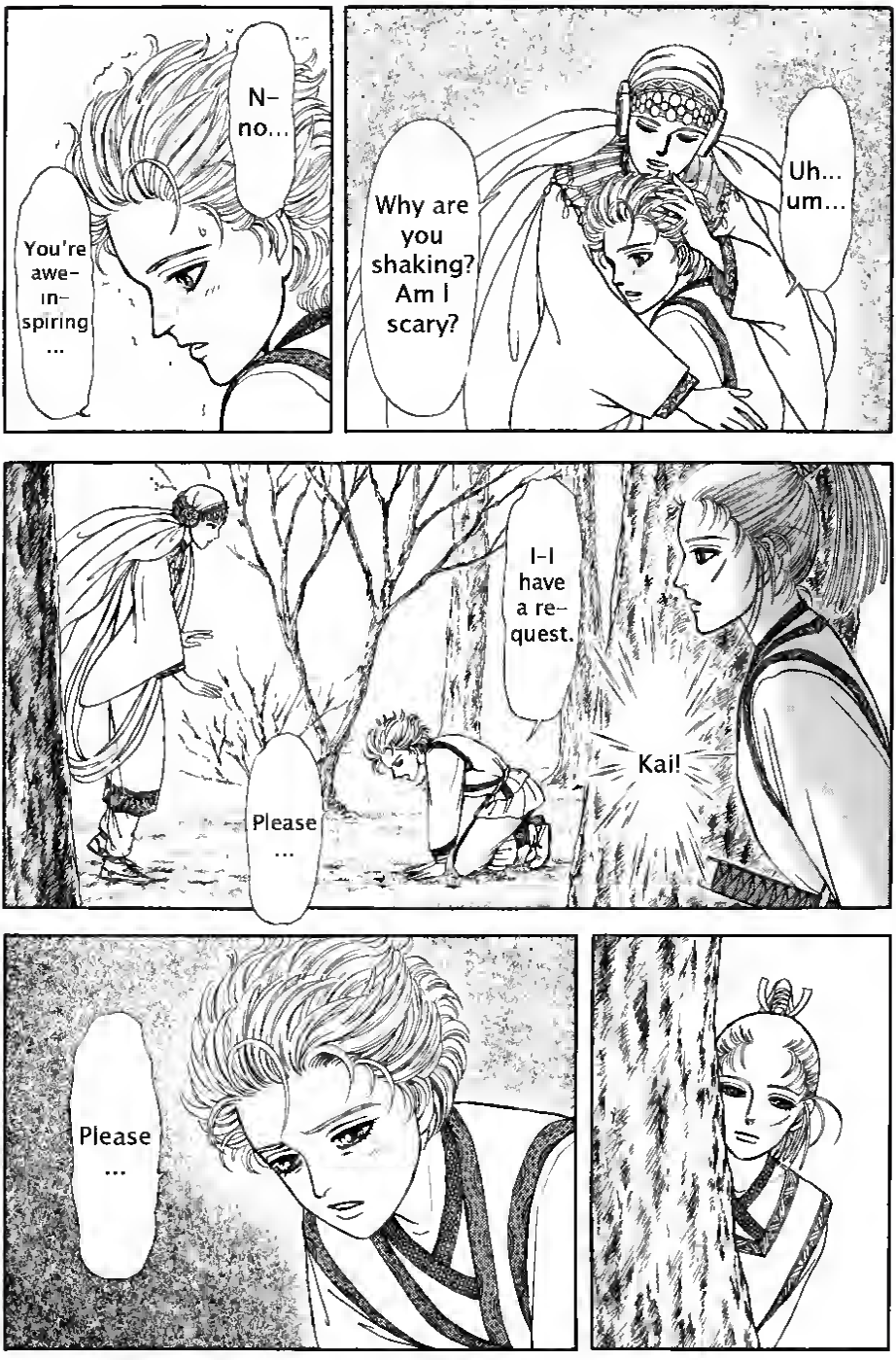

I wonder why I'm only popular with the ladies...
Takaya's always been popular with both boys and girls.
...he's loved someone this deeply besides Yoko...
It must be the first time...

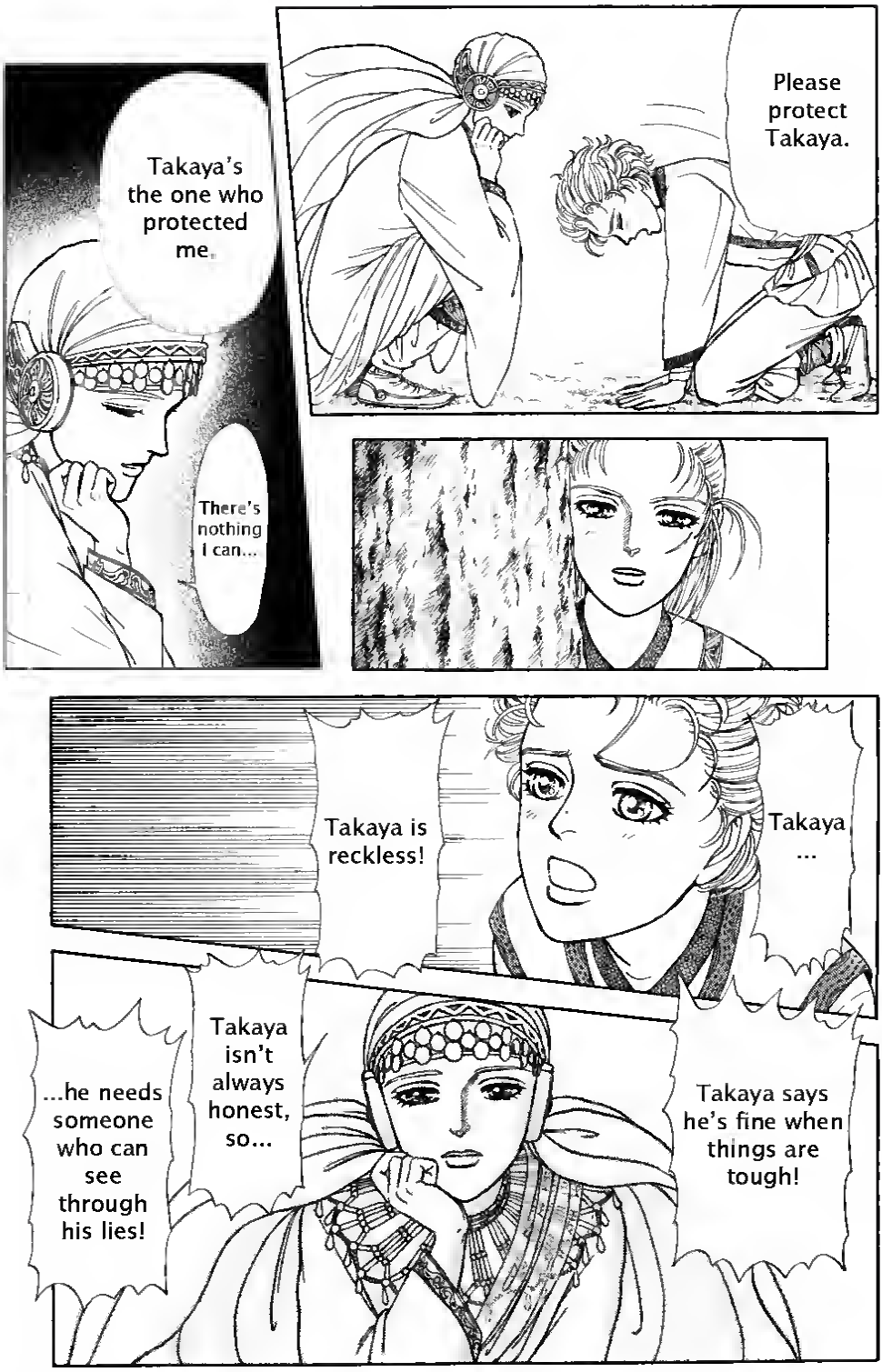

Lord ... Ka- guya ...
Kaguya, God of Lights!


Can you hear me?
Please listen!
I've come with a request regarding Takaya!

Lord Kaguya !
Kaguya, God of Lights!
FWOOM
Kai!

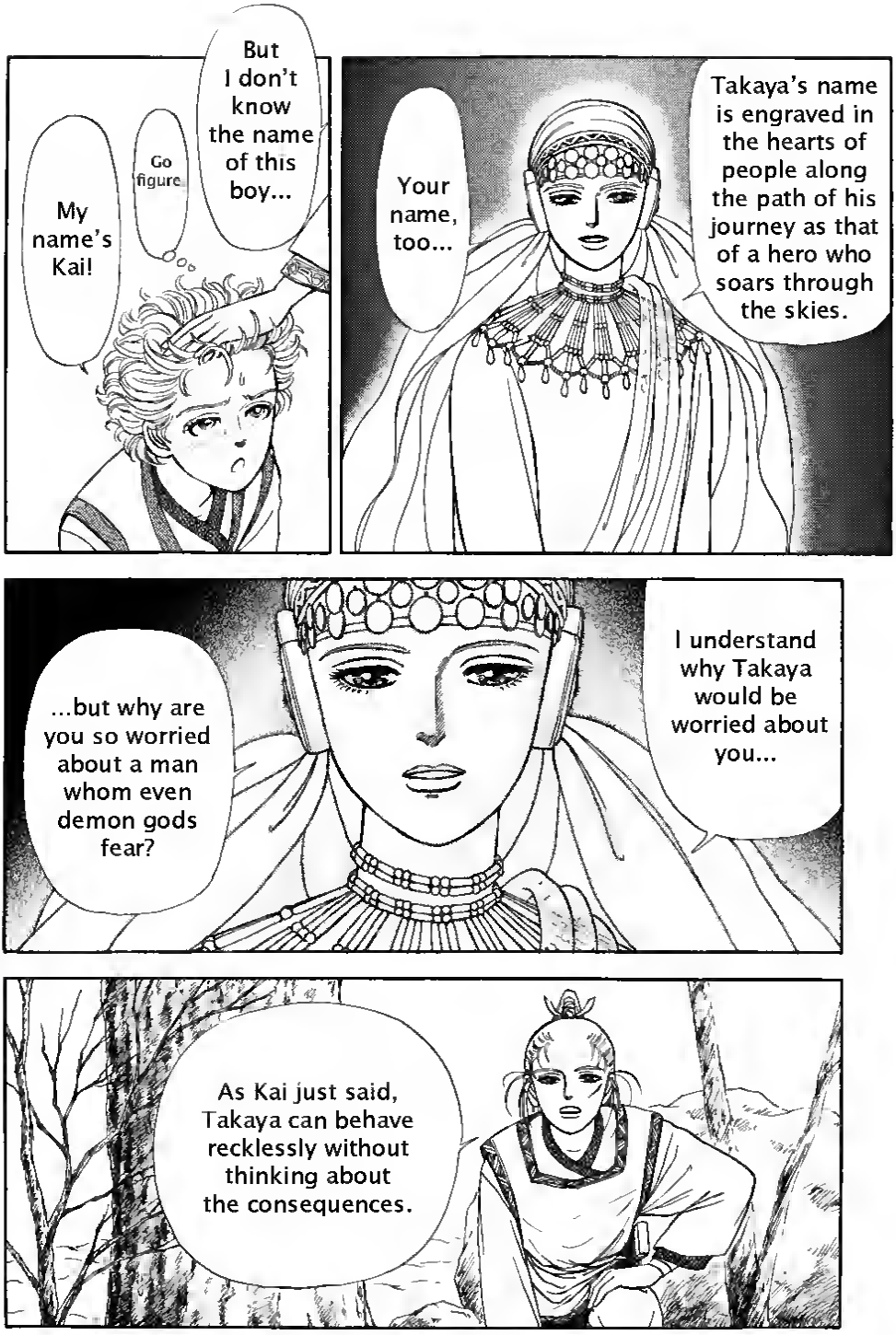

Oh ...!
You called? You have a request regarding Takaya...?
Ask me anything.
I love children.

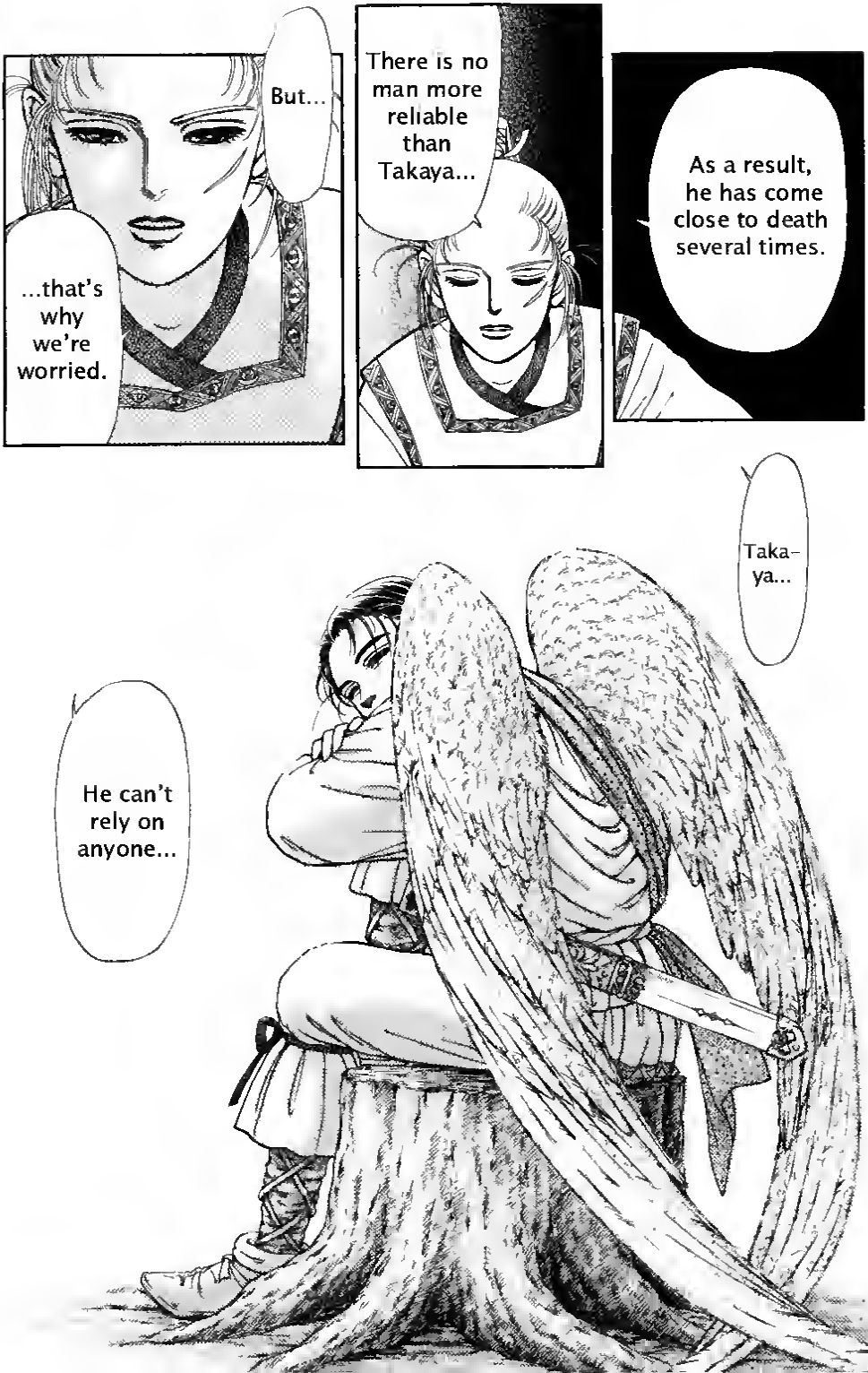

N-no...
You're awe-in-spiring...
Why are you shaking? Am I scary?
Uh... um...
I-I have a re-quest.
Kai!
Please...
Please...


Please protect Takaya.
Takaya's the one who protected me.
There's nothing I can...
Takaya ...
Takaya is reckless!
Takaya says he's fine when things are tough!
Takaya isn't always honest, so...
...he needs someone who can see through his lies!

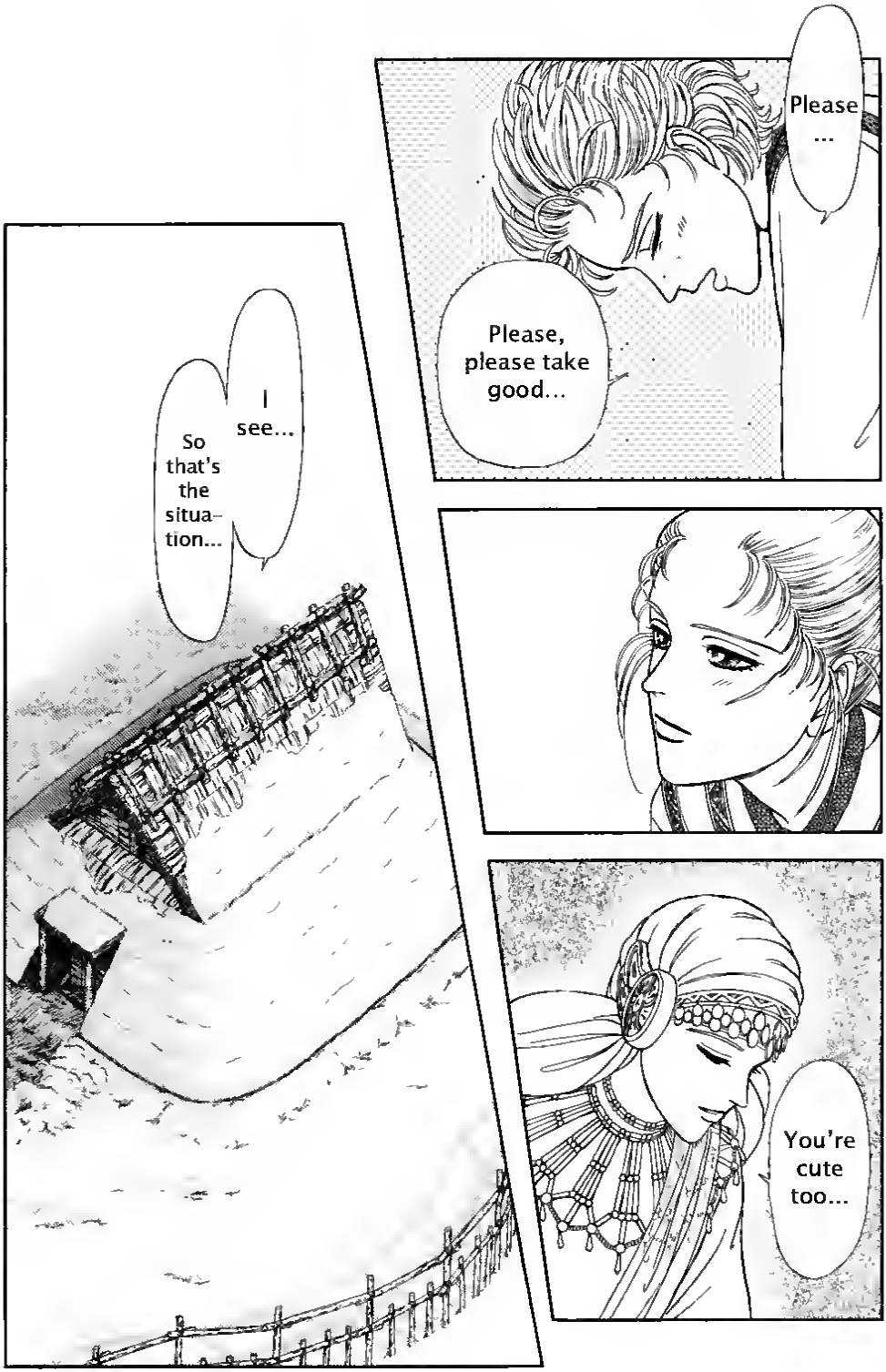
...he'll die...
... he'll ...
Otherwise, he'll keep telling lies and behaving recklessly and...
What about that person?
He doesn't listen to me.
N- no...
So he needs someone like you, for example?

You know my name ...!?
You're Katsura, right?
Kat-sura!
I didn't mean to eaves-drop...
Please forgive me.


But I don't know the name of this boy...
Go figure.
My name's Kai!
Takaya's name is engraved in the hearts of people along the path of his journey as that of a hero who soars through the skies.
Your name, too...
I understand why Takaya would be worried about you...
...but why are you so worried about a man whom even demon gods fear?
As Kai just said, Takaya can behave recklessly without thinking about the consequences.


But...
...that's why we're worried.
There is no man more reliable than Takaya...
As a result, he has come close to death several times.
Taka-ya...
He can't rely on anyone...

You look so worried...
I can't promise you anything in my present condition...
...but I will worry about Takaya for you until the day you are reunited...
...to the best of my ability ...
Th-thank you.
That's perfect.
I liked that strong, cute man from the very beginning.
C-cute?


Please ...
Please, please take good...
I see...
So that's the situa-tion...
You're cute too...

She's not the kind of woman who could abandon those in need.
...but I expect Katsura will accompany you both to Fuji.
I'm sorry I can't take Tamia...
Please don't give up. Take good care of your health and recover as much as you can so you can make the journey.
But I...
Father!
I'm not going anywhere without you.
I don't think Tamia could leave her father behind on her way to Fuji.
Amane of Fuji heals all illnesses.

And Katsura knows a lot about medicinal plants.
She's studied under Aohiko, at any rate...
Take good care of yourself.
Tamia ...
Thank you very much.
I'm so glad we met you all...
I'll go prepare for my journey...

All right.
I'll just tell the village chief that I'm going ahead alone.
Oh...
Please don't tell anyone about Kaguya...
...
Taka-ya!

Um...
Um ...
Tamia ...
I'll leave at dawn from the forest to the south...
Uh... yeah.
I-is it all right if I see you off tomorrow?
I'm touched that you'd cry this much...
...but it's making it very hard...

You know ...
A girl's smile is all it takes to bring happiness to those around her.
No lie...
Smile when you see me off. You have such a cute smile!
I'm sorry ...
I even wove you a kimono!
Guess what!? I stayed up late to make you leggings.
I knitted a belt for you!
I brought you breakfast!
Good morning, Takaya!
...
AHAHA..
やはは
にこにこ
GRIN
Women's intuition ...?

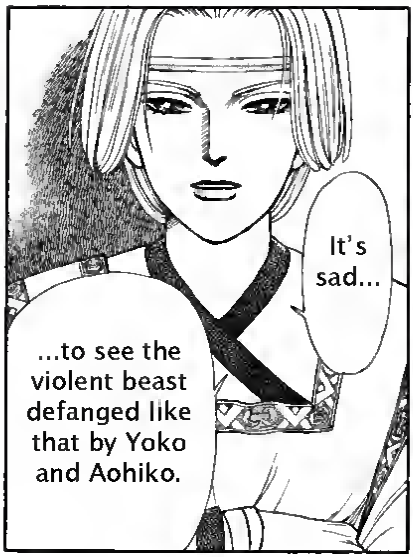
You can see him off with a smile tomorrow, right?
...
No...?
I'm...
I don't want to sleep with Takaya!
I wish he'd just take off already!
...going to sleep at Tamia's place tonight. Switch me beds, okay?
To Fuji or anywhere else!
Why!?

At this rate, he'd sob under the blankets...
...
I'm...
...an adult...
...a strong woman...
And you...?
What about you... Katsura...?

Please, Captain!
Please!
Ask Kiyu to heal Aohiko's illness!
He will heal him if there is a need for it...
Lord Kiyu perceives everything.

What do you care if Aohiko loses his sanity...?
DAH!
But there are illnesses he can heal and those he can't...
People who go insane have a peculiar beauty about them.
It's his looks you care about, right?
No!

That's right...
Why am I so upset about Aohiko going insane?
I...!
おれはっ
No!
ちがうっ!!
I...
...
HEH HEH
Go ask Yoko about it.
She'll explain it to you in a way you can understand...

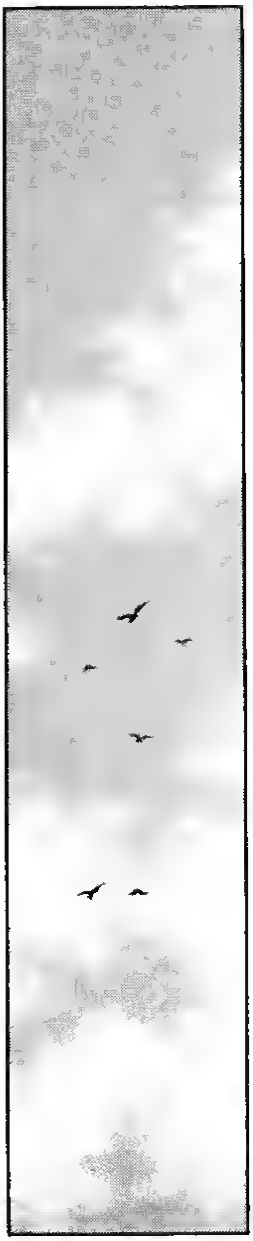

It's sad...
...to see the violent beast defanged like that by Yoko and Aohiko.

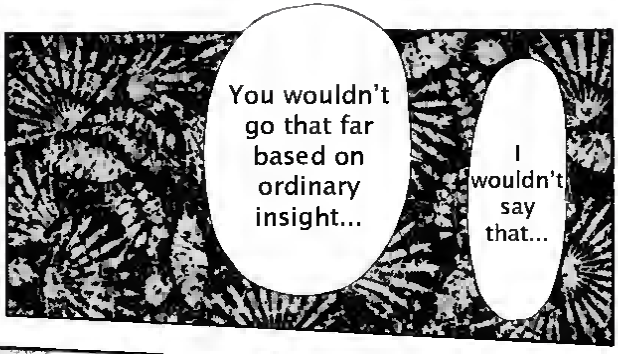
MUTTER MUTTER...

I can definitely see why Mida said they were dangerous.
You think he's gone soft?
...that brought out his brilliance...
...his affinity for evil...
It was Kyoji's blood-lust...

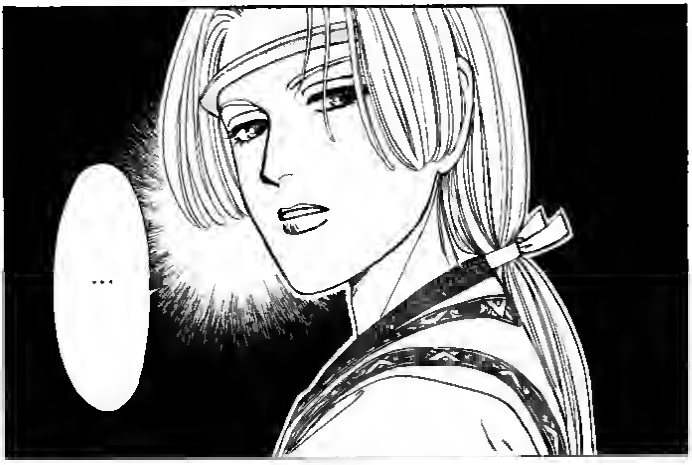
...to protect those two.
No. He's become even more of a monster...
Was he "evil" before?
Is Kyoji "good" now...?
...between good and evil...
There's not much of a difference...
HEH
Like an aphrodisiac ...
Evil is sweet ...
Good is sweet ...
The apparent opposition between good and evil is no more than a fantasy of those enslaved to either one.

...because they are not enslaved by good or evil...
Yoko and Aohiko are dangerous...
Then I guess you could say I'm a slave to the aphrodisiac of evil.
I'm just a chess piece in Lord Kiyu's hands.
You already know that...
What about you, Captain?
What are... you...?




You wouldn't go that far based on ordinary insight...
I wouldn't say that...

Then... let me put it this way.
My tribe also followed the gods that cannot be seen...


...

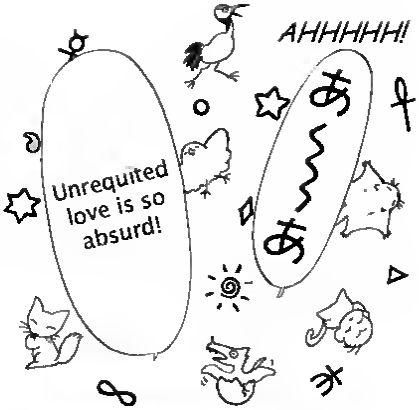
Ooh, this is unusual. All alone?
Let me see...
A comb?
What-cha makin'?
The other two went out, saying they'd be back soon...
It's pretty ...
The knife ...
Not that!

FWOOSH
SWISH
... would look like...
I wonder what his face...
...

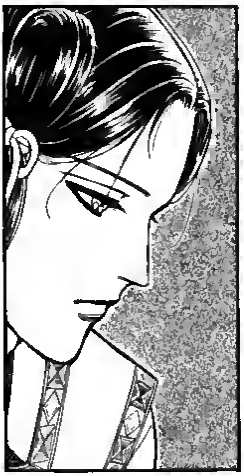
I don't feel happy when you say it...
Kimika ...
...if I killed you.
...to say my name ...
I want him...
Kimika ...
He's been mopey and irri-table...
You bullied him again, didn't you?
It's all your fault!

Ugh.
Why do you have such a nice voice?
Hey, when you finish the comb, give it to me.
It's easy to take things out on you.
Sorry ...
Sorry, but this is...
Yoko?
It's meant for someone else.
Katsura ... huh...?
...

Stupid Nachi!
AHA-HAAH!

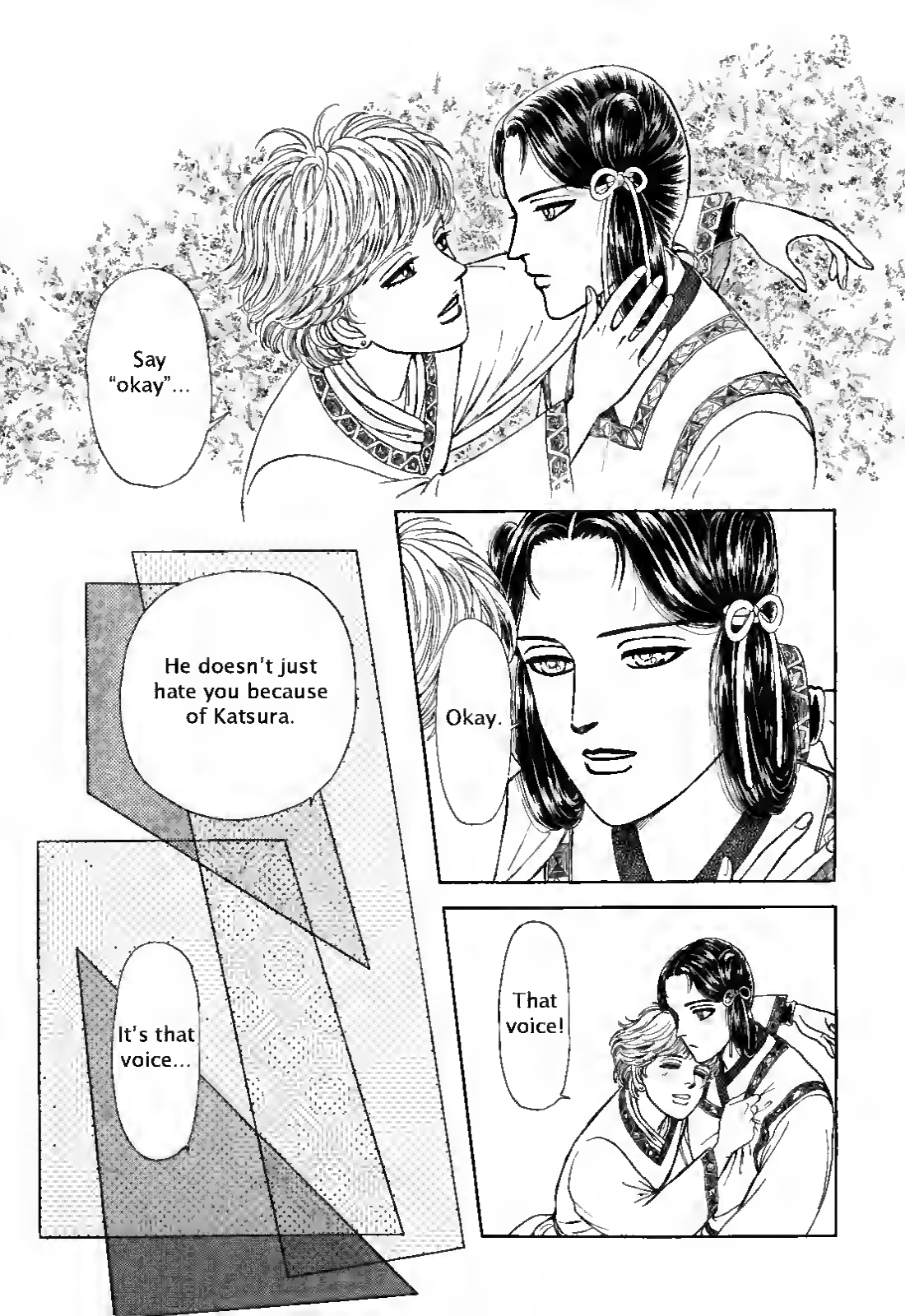

Unrequited love is so absurd!
AHHHHH!

Hey... Aohiko...



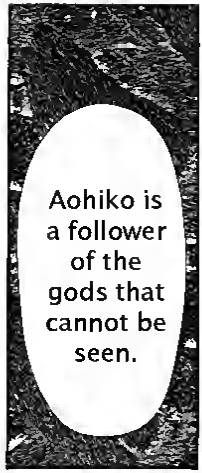
Stupid me...

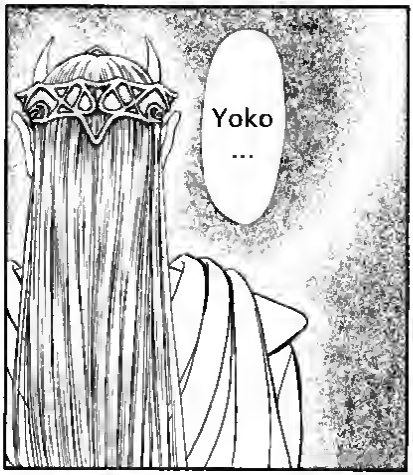
...might actually kill you one day...
I...


Say "okay"...
Okay.
He doesn't just hate you because of Katsura.
That voice!
It's that voice...

...even Nachi who hates you...
You'll accept anything...
...with that bewitching voice...
...with those words ...
It's insulting.
No wonder he hates you.
You hateful man...

Is it about Aohiko?
This is a first ...
...you coming to see me...
Yes...
All I can do is supplement people's capacity to heal and enhance it to its maximum extent.


Aohiko is a follower of the gods that cannot be seen.

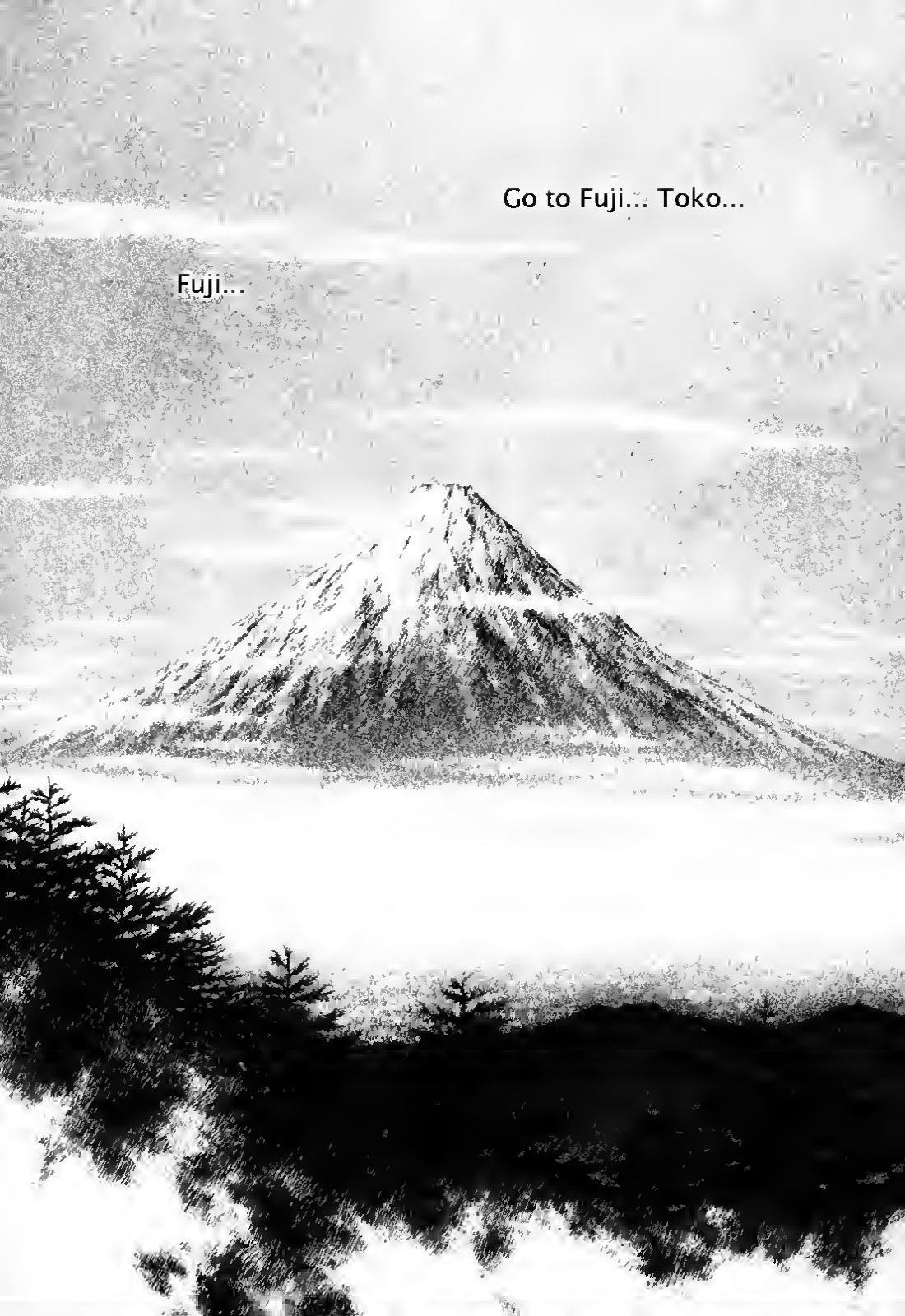

Yoko ...

Do you think he would seek out Amane, God of Universal Good, for her power to cure his illness?

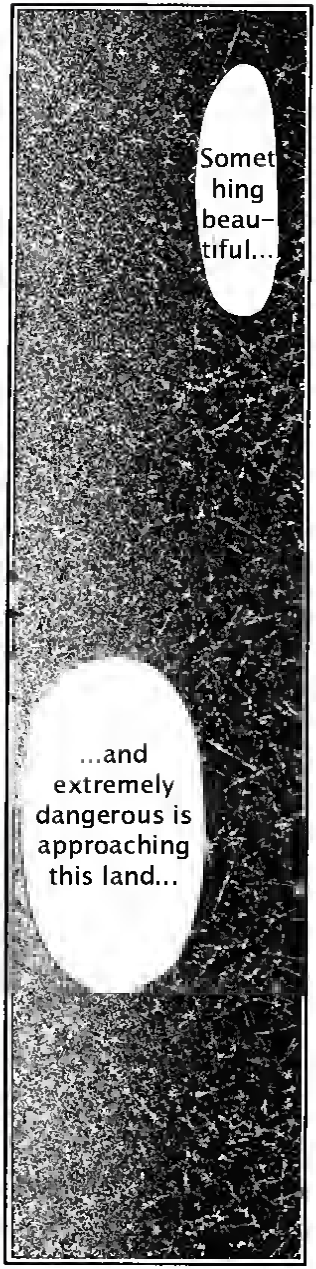
...Aohiko is traveling to Fuji to find out what is there?
Isn't the reason ...

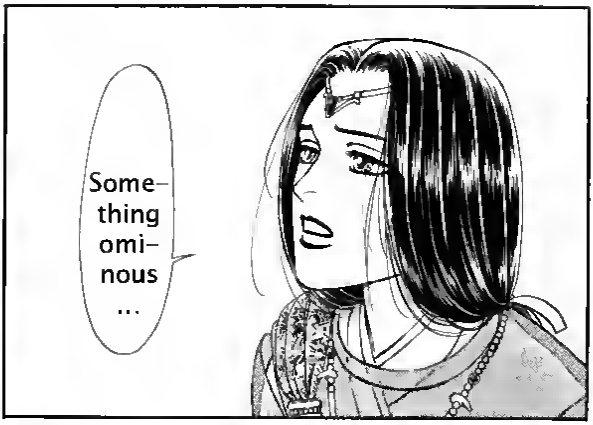
No...

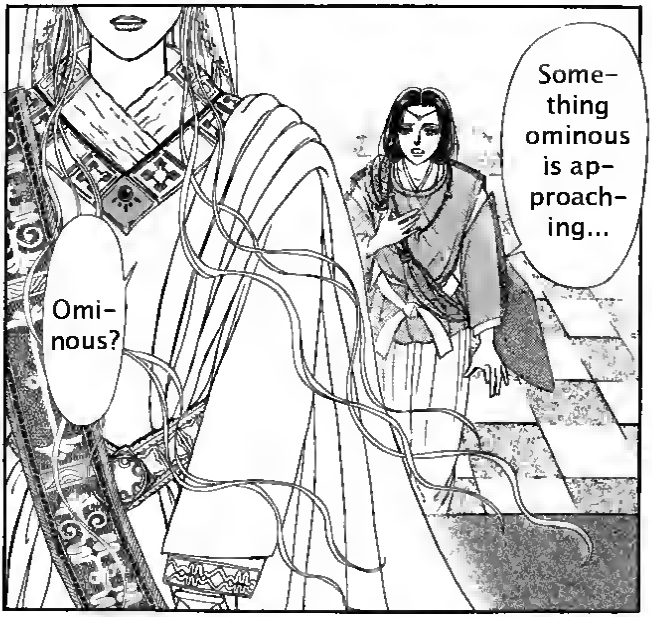
Fuji is near at hand...
Yes, it is...
...what is there...
You, too, should see...
...what is happening there...
...and what will happen.

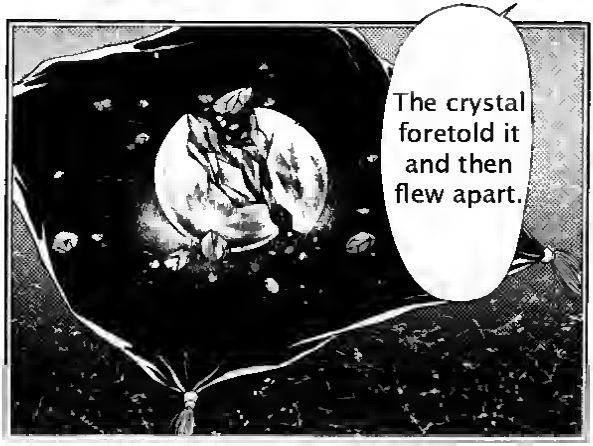

Go to Fuji... Toko...
Fuji...

There you are.
What ...
...has so disturbed your wave-length?


Something beautiful...
...and extremely dangerous is approaching this land...

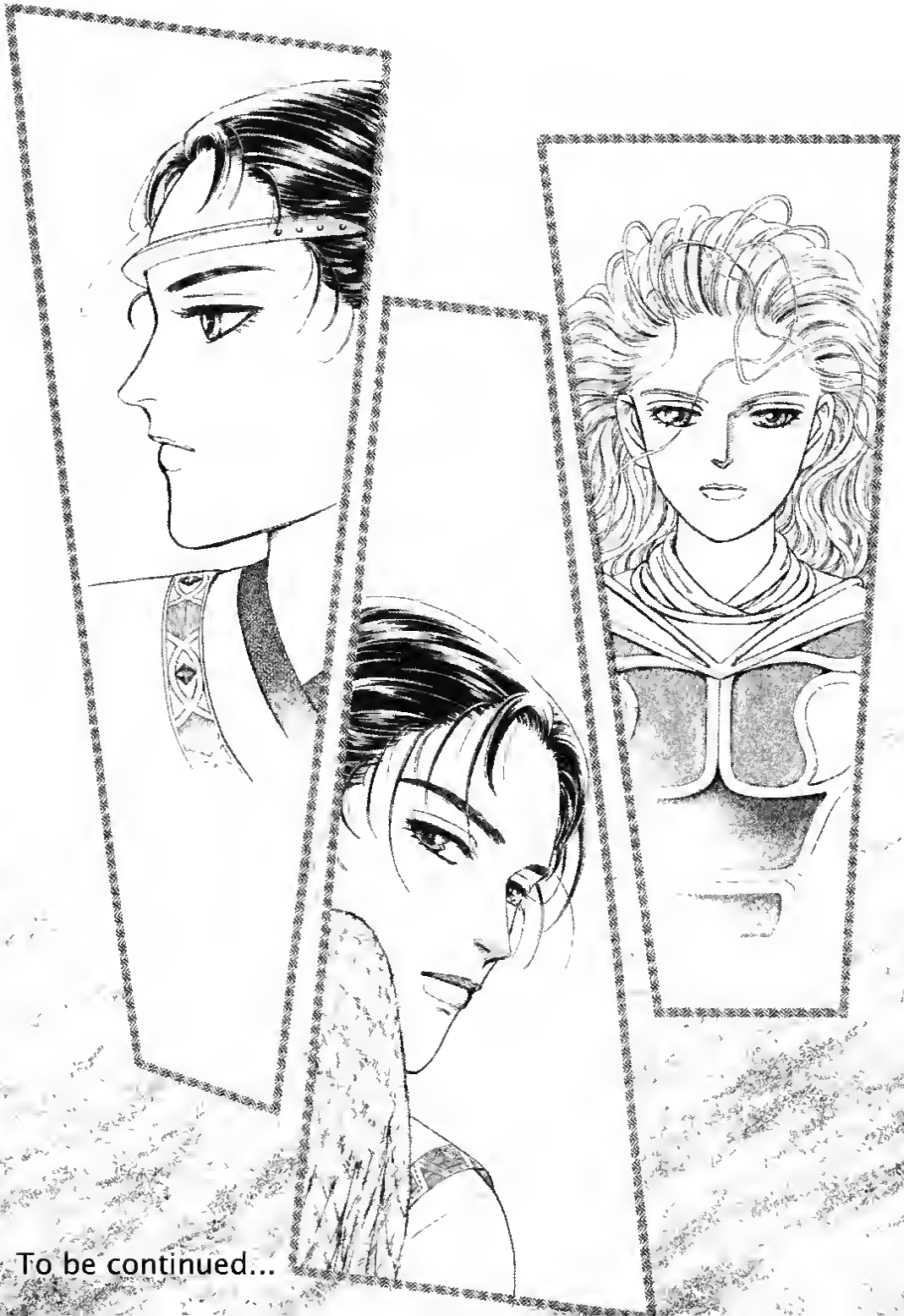

Something ominous...

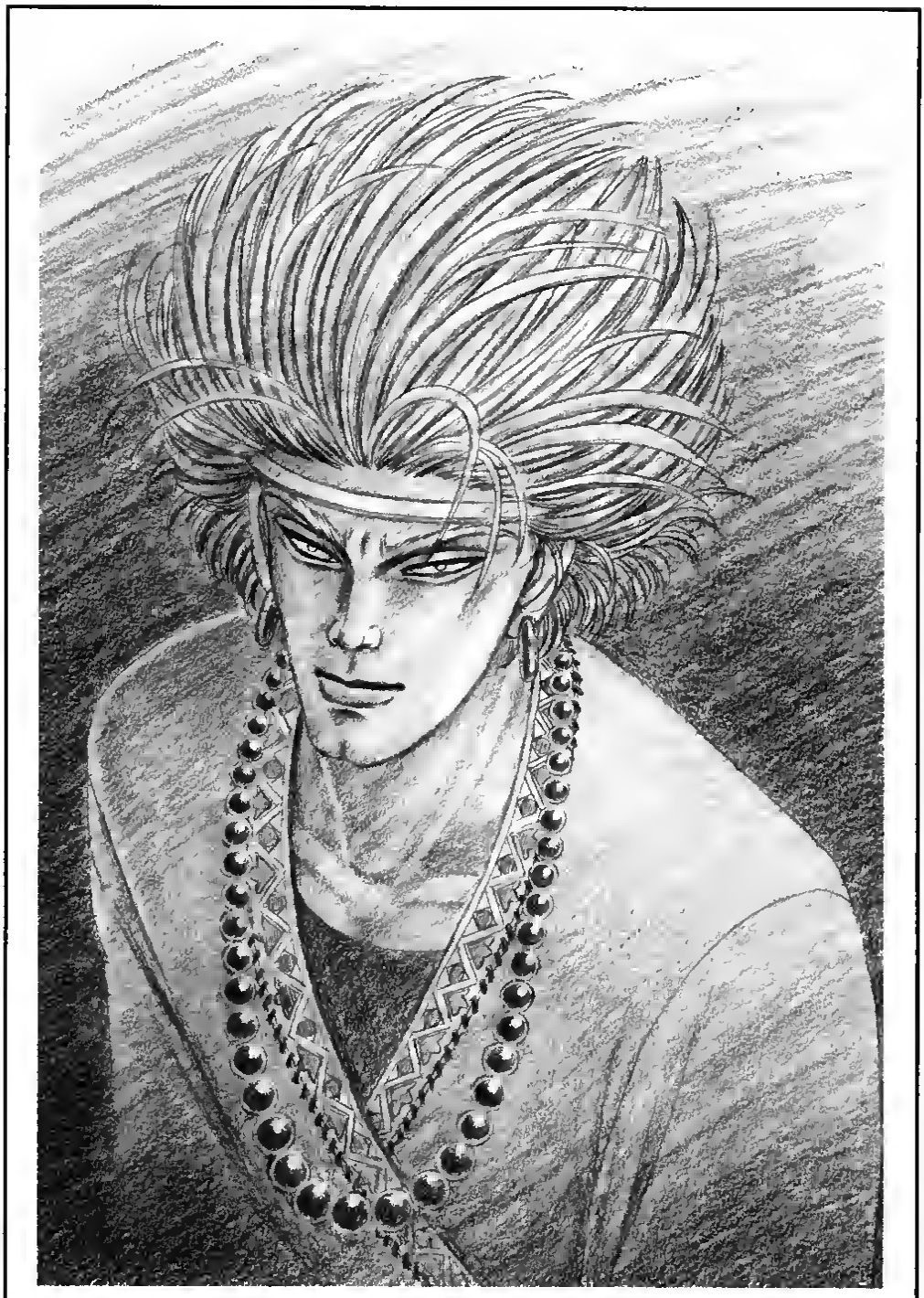

Something ominous is approaching...
Ominous?


The crystal foretold it and then flew apart.

Lord Amane ...
Sarai ...
...and dis-appear...
One day, all those who oppose me will reach this land...

...in my name...


To be continued...



Itihasa 9

Author
Wakako Mizuki

Copyright
© Wakako Mizuki

First e-book edition-May 2015

Publisher
Creek & River Co., Ltd
C&R Group Bldg.,
2-10-9, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Japan 102-0083

For more information, visit the site below.
"Japan Authors' Gallery KAORI"
http://www.cri.co.jp/KAORI/